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AGRICULTURAL.

MANURE should be hauled out to the fields while the sledging lasts.

PAINT the wagons. It will furnish you with pleasant indoor work for a few days.

APPETITES are sharper during a cold snap. Give the cows a little more to eat in zero weather.

The empty grain sacks will come handy next fall. Put them away mended and ready for use.

The Farmers and Cattle Owners' Protective Association has endorsed the present plans of the Massachusetts Cattle Commission. Evidently there will be no "fight" this year.

A LONG standing forest is a mine of leaf mold. In sheltered spots where the leaves have heaped up and decayed for years, it can be gathered by the shovel almost as rich as manure. Mix it with barnyard manure and use it in the garden.

Is the corn shelled, the apples and potatoes sorted, the ice-house filled, the strawberry patch protected, the fire-wood cut and the trees trimmed; the wood and manure hauled, the tools put in order and all the odd jobs performed? Then take more time to study up on farming.

PRUNING orchards in winter is not a very complicated task, but it requires the directing eye of the owner. The hired man means well, but he doesn't love the trees as the owner should, and he will hack and chop them like an old-time surgeon. Fasten a chalk to a pole and circle the branches you wish to take off.

A MAP of the farm can be made in winter as well as any other time. It will be found useful when planning out the work. Measure and mark the length, in rods, of all the boundary lines of the various fields, also locate buildings, trees, large rocks, and mark off the woodland, meadow, tillage and pastures.

New Way With Strawberries.

L. J. Farmer, a widely known strawberry grower of Pulaski, N. Y., has a method of his own for spring treatment of strawberry plants.

The plants are taken up very early and trenched closely in sloping trenches, about seven inches deep, twelve to fifteen plants to the linear foot, and the crowns even with the surface. The roots are clipped before trenching. The whole surface is mulched, the beds (each consisting of three trenches eight inches apart) thoroughly soaked, and, a week after, sprayed with Bordeaux mixture. The plants are kept in the beds, where they can be frequently sprayed for mildew (which in Oswego County is worse than rust) about six weeks. Ten thousand can thus be treated on a square rod of land. About May 20 the plants are set in the fields, and will ordinarily need no more spraying until after they have made a crop.

Mr. Farmer puts the winter mulch on early, about as soon as the ground will bear a wagon. Horse manure is the preferred mulch.

New Vegetables and Fertilizers.

BOSTON MARKET GARDENERS DISCUSS VARIOUS FARM TOPICS.

A "question box" comprised the program at last Saturday's meeting of the Boston Market Gardeners. The discussion began upon new kinds of vegetables. Mr. H. A. Low of Hingham told about making new varieties. In the course of his remarks he said: "It is very easy to make a cross, but difficult to hold the type when you have obtained it. It has a tendency to return to the characteristics of one or the other of its parents. The Bay State squash was a sport, and tends to revert to the original stock. I have a new sort not yet brought out, firm, sweet and productive, but we may find that in gaining one quality we lose another. New varieties are of no use unless they will transmit their good qualities to the seed."

Speaking of nitrate of soda, Mr. Low had observed best results on rhubarb. He spread the chemical along the rows early in spring. It acted very quickly, and made it earlier. He found the soda a specific fertilizer when used with muriate of potash and bone. He had used nitrate of soda upon his Hingham farm, obtaining an enormous yield of rhubarb. After he left that farm the new manager ploughed into the rhubarb an enormous amount of barnyard manure and cultivated the crop thoroughly. The result was such a comparatively small crop that the manager tore up the plants in disgust. If he had expended half the value of the manure in nitrate of soda, Mr. Low thought the result would have been quite opposite. Nitrate of soda forces leaf and stalk growth of plants. Concerning new varieties, Mr. Low spoke highly of Siebert's lima bean and the Canada tomato.

Mr. J. J. H. Gregory of Marblehead, the veteran seedsman, gave notes of several varieties of vegetables which he had tested. Speaking of nitrate of soda, he said that many of the soils near Boston had been so heavily manured that they already had an abundance of nitrogen. But the advantage of nitrate of soda is that its nitrogen acts at once. It is all ready. It sometimes acts upon grass in two or three days. Nitrogen makes leaf growth.

Mr. Low—I should like to ask Mr. Gregory about the use of fish waste. I mean heads, skins, bone and similar refuse. I have found it excellent for grass and cabbages.

Mr. Gregory—Fish waste used to be a great reliance. It had an awful smell. It has five or six per cent nitrogen. The bones had some phosphoric acid, but no potash. The waste can be had in drier form nowadays. The old fish waste was of very rank odor. Night soil is nothing beside it. Of late years I have used quantities of damaged herrings, used it for composting and ploughed it under. It is very rank and pushes a rank growth.

W. S. Janvier told an amusing story of a grass field dressed with fish waste, where at first the grass grew faster than man could mow it, but the rapid growth exhausted the vitality of the growing plants, and the crop was a failure. This story was followed by others.

Mr. Allen—Can any of you tell me about the Atlantic Prize tomato?

Mr. Gregory—My notes say:—Rather early, good-size, good color. I do not rank it very high. I think well of the following: Rand's Imperial, all of Livingston Seedlings, Ignomut, Dwarf Champion and Aristocrat.

In the discussion which followed the Government seed distribution was considered and some rather unfavorable opinions were expressed. Mr. Bliss of Rehoboth had received a package of Corey corn and thought it undesirable because not sweet enough. But Mr. Stone said he planted four acres of the Corey and could find nothing else so early and salable. "We raise to sell, not to eat," said Mr. Stone.

The next question was in regard to local boards of survey, which some of the speakers thought necessary to secure an orderly and connected street system in the suburbs.

Somebody next proposed the question, Can the market gardeners do anything

in regard to the size of barrels and in regard to swapping barrels and boxes? Mr. T. Mulligan spoke of the great variation in size and capacity of barrels and asked for a standard. President Rawson said that this matter is now under consideration by a committee of the Boston Produce Exchange.

Mr. Stone spoke of the ticket system of exchanging boxes, many worthless boxes being so obtained. It was a disgrace to take home the average set of boxes. Boxes bring 15 to 22 cents. It would often pay to make new ones and obtain a better price for the consignment.

Mr. Derby spoke in favor of selling the boxes outright.

Mr. Stone—I have just sold a hundred barrels of apples to a pedler, the barrels to be returned, price \$1 per barrel.

Mr. Stone advocated the use of nothing but bushel boxes. Big boxes should be thrown away. Many others objected to this proposition.

After some further discussion upon this subject and upon the question of the price to be paid for manure, the meeting was adjourned.

The Peach Yellows Bill.

ED. MASS. PLOUGHMAN: DEAR SIR:—In your issue of Jan. 23 I noticed an article upon peach yellows, and I wish to call your readers' attention to Professor Maynard's article in the New England Homestead of January 30.

Who would be likely to best know the desires of the peach growers of Massachusetts, a man like Professor Maynard, or a gentleman living on Massachusetts Avenue, Boston? Mr. Clement says he expects no opposition, except from a few orchardists whose trees are already badly diseased, and who desire to palm off another crop of diseased fruit for their own selfish ends, etc.

Now, I think when this bill comes to a hearing that there will be plenty of growers who are interested in growing good healthy fruit, to appear against it—men who have been in the peach business for years. Supposing we have the proposed law, where are the men who can diagnose the disease and tell us whether the trees are sick with yellows or some other trouble? I haven't any faith in the idea that we have any yellows that is contagious in this state.

I have set many a young tree right in the place of an old tree, and by feeding it generously it would grow perfectly healthy. If it was a contagious disease, I contend it would affect a young tree so planted. If everyone would feed his trees properly, and if we could avoid the injury of extreme wet and cold, I would insure against the yellows very cheaply.

Professor Maynard says "There is no specific germ by which it can be detected." Now, it's a very curious fact that no one has been able to discover this contagious germ, if such exists. The fact is, it does not exist, or it would have been discovered.

The extremes of wet and cold that may injure one tree so severely as to cause it to prematurely ripen its fruit and begin to die, have injured several around the centre one; so, after the worst injured tree is dead and gone, which usually occurs the second year, the surrounding trees begin to show the same trouble. The injury to these was not as great as to the first one, so it took longer for the effect to show itself. But the injury to the roots or one side of the body by the action of too much water or severe freezing will sooner or later bring about the yellow condition, the premature ripening of the fruit and death of the tree, which, I believe, is all the yellows we have in Massachusetts.

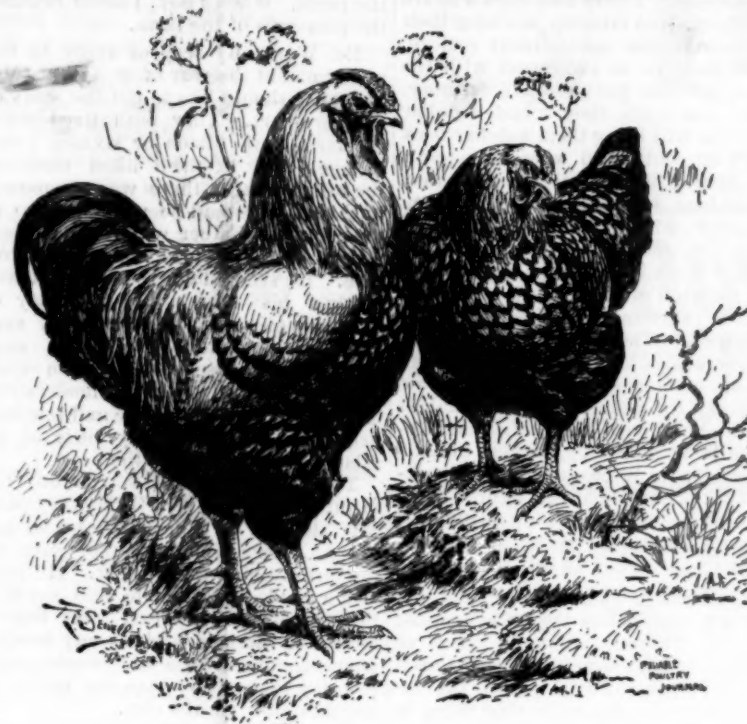
W. D. HINDS.

Townsend, Feb. 1, 1897.

Horticultural.

Some berry growers say that driving winds will waste the pollen and cause the berries to grow one-sided.

In buying new kinds of strawberry plants, better rely upon the experience of growers as given in the farmers' meetings rather than upon the highly colored descriptions in the catalogues.



SILVER-FACED WYANDOTTES. (Hawkins Strain.)

Stick to the Dairy.

At or a little before the beginning of the year 1896 the writer and many others were quite hopeful regarding the outlook for butter, and at that time there did seem to be a strengthening up of prices, but a little later it went the other way and by the first of May the butter market was pretty flat and was disappointing the balance of the year. But low in price as butter was, it paid as well or better than anything else produced on the farm except eggs. Even now butter is lower than it usually is at this time of the year. But when we remember how very low prices are for grain, it does seem that it will bring more converted into butter—butter of good quality—than any other way of marketing would be likely to return if, as before, we except production of eggs. This is especially true of corn.

Doubtless many went out of the dairy business during 1896 and many more reduced their number of cows fully fifty per cent, and others made even greater reduction of their herd. Those that did either belong mainly to that class of farmers who rushed into dairying expecting to get suddenly rich. As a rule, the last ones to go into dairying are the first to come out when a depression in prices come. It is the old dairymen that as a rule stay by through the ups and downs of the business. They are the ones that in the end win success as a rule.

There would be sense in a farmer disposing of one-half his herd if he would get rid of the poorest cows and by better methods of care and feeding increase the butter production of those retained. This can many times be done. All the money made in dairying has been made with good cows well fed and cared for.

If times improve so that the purchasing power of the people of this country proves greater during this year than it was last, butter ought to average higher in prices during 1897 than it did during 1896. There are some in the way, yet there are reasons for being hopeful. During the past year filled cheese received a black eye, and that makes a better market for good cheese, which will naturally result in diverting a larger proportion of the milk profit to cheese making than has gone in that direction for several years past. Taking all these facts into consideration, it seems there is really no need for any one to abandon butter making who is well established and who will do his best to increase his product per cow and improve quality. The farmer that will not do that better be out of the business, any way.

F. W. MOSELEY.

Clinton, Iowa.

Formalin for Scab.

The Indiana Station finds formalin a good substitute for corrosive sublimate in treating seed potatoes for scab. It is a little more expensive, but is not poisonous to animals, while the corrosive sublimate is a violent poison. Formalin comes in one pound bottles containing a 40 per cent solution, which is a colorless and odorless liquid. Add half a pint to 15 gallons water, soak the seed potatoes two hours, and then

That Egg Record.

ED. MASS. PLOUGHMAN: DEAR SIR:—I noticed, in reading an item in your Poultry column, that the writer says he gets 20 eggs from 100 hens and thinks he ought to get double that this winter. Well, he had and three times that, certainly he ought to get two and one-half times that at least. My flock of 125 hens laid in January from 70 to 84 eggs daily, and they are continuing to do the same now in February. He probably does not feed them right, or does not give them the right conditions. Let him attend the next farmers' meeting at Wesleyan Hall, the 20th inst., at 10 A. M., it will be discussed there and he will probably learn something.

LYSANDER S. RICHARDS.
Marshfield Hills, Mass., Feb. 9.

Potatoes Under Glass.

Mr. Wm. Derby of Revere reports his usual success with extra early potatoes the past season. He had six or seven acres, for which the seed was sprouted under glass as described in a former article. These potatoes were ready for market two weeks earlier than others.

A Pennsylvania farmer goes a step further than Mr. Derby, and grows potatoes wholly under glass, maturing them in time to compete with the new potatoes from the South. These tubers from indoors were sold for the same price per half peck as he afterwards obtained per bushel for those grown out of doors.

Greenhouse culture for potatoes is practiced quite extensively in England where an early-maturing kidney potato is used. Some of our enterprising gardeners should procure specimens of these potatoes and make experiments.

Stock and Dairy Notes.

Curry the horses, and brush them down. Keep the stables clean, and let the air and sunshine into the stables. Steady work and liberal feeding will keep the teams in health.

Ewes, heavy with lamb, should be separated from the other sheep; also, all old or weak sheep. Give them the run of a small blue grass sod every mild day. Keep the pens dry, clean and the air pure. Hot, low, cellar stables are fatal to sheep; feed may be saved, but it is at the expense of health.

Cows heavy with calf should be given daily exercise in a warm barnyard. They should be kept in good condition, but not fat. Two quarts of corn chop fed to each one, with a half-peck of sliced beets daily, will keep them in prime condition, and they will, under such care, drop large healthy calves in the spring without difficulty.

New Fungicides

While Bordeaux mixture has been the first reliance in fighting blights and rusts, Professor Halstead's later experiments at Rutgers College, N. J., promise several new fungicides all free from the worst faults of the Bordeaux mixture. These will soon be made public in an official bulletin.

THE PLOUGHMAN Farmers' Meeting

Was held in Wesleyan Hall, 36 Bromfield Street, Boston, Mass., Feb. 6, 1897, at 10 o'clock A. M. Essay by Benj. P. Ware of Clifton. Subject: "Farming as a Business."

The Farmers' Meeting of last Saturday was attended by a large and appreciative audience. A few youths and boys were present, but only a few, and the graybeards were far in the majority. The audience included many of the most substantial and prosperous farmers in New England. The essay was an able one, and carefully prepared, and the audience listened with deep attention. The chairman was Mr. O. B. HADWEN of Worcester, who said: "The subject today is 'Farming as a Business,' a most prolific subject. Farming has clothed and fed the world for all time, and will continue to do so. Hence the business must continue and increase. I have today the pleasure of introducing my friend, Mr. B. P. WARE, of Clifton."

MR. WARE'S ESSAY.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

In considering this subject, it may be assumed that agriculture has been, and is now, the leading business of the whole world. Upon it is based all others. All wealth, all means of supporting life and maintaining health, must of necessity come from the products of the earth, and upon farmers are all other classes of mankind dependent. Socrates said that agriculture is the employment of all others the most worthy of man, the most ancient, and the most suitable to his nature. It is the source of health, strength, plenty, riches, and a thousand sober delights and honest pleasures; the mistress and school of sobriety, temperance, justice, religion, and in a word, of all kinds of virtues, both civil and military. Another ancient writer said that the success of a nation may be measured by the condition of its agriculture. History has proved these sayings as true today as they were then. The farmers are the conservative class, relied upon, either in time of war or peace, to rescue our country from foreign invasion or the evil designs of unscrupulous politicians. A large portion of our leading business men, of our jurists, statesmen and clergy, are from the farm.

THE FARMER A CREATOR.
It is proved by statistics that all city families, unless recruited by new blood from the farm, would become extinct beyond the third generation. The farmer, of all other men, is inspired in his work through his implicit faith in the ever-present living God, whether he acknowledge it or not. He of all other men is honored of God, for he walks with him in his every-day business of life; he is allowed, ay, obliged, to be a co-creator with God. God made all fruits and vegetables, but he never made one that would take a premium at any of our exhibitions. But he made man with capacity to carry out his plans and perfect his fruits and vegetables, as is manifest at our markets and exhibition halls. God created man with wonderful possibilities which he might use or not according to his option; but he never made man's character; he holds him responsible for the use he makes of the capacity given him.

A STRAIGHTFORWARD BUSINESS.
It is believed that the farmer makes as good progress in the development of character as any other class—at least, he ought to better, for the necessities of his business teach him to be honest—honest with his lands, by returning elements of fertility for all that he takes from them, or he will be impoverished. He learns to be honest with his crops, or they will fail him; for he soon learns that as he sows so shall he reap, both in his field and moral crops. He learns that he must be honest with his farm animals of all kinds, or they will yield him no profit or satisfaction. Yet all farmers are not saints, for some will cheat themselves in all of these ways. Some do put the fairest apples at each end of the barrel and the poorest in the middle. Hence some farmers fall far short of the destiny that they should attain.

HOW FARMERS FEED THE NATION.
How well the farmer has met the responsibility of the demands upon his business by all other classes of humanity, a review of the records of the Agricultural Department at Washington will show.

There were, in 1895, 4,564,941 farms in the United States valued at more than \$18,000,000,000, averaging 137 acres each; average value of each was \$2900; stock and implements about \$1000 each—making about \$4000 value of each farm. Farmers' families average six persons. These families have been comfortably and, in some instances, luxuriously housed, fed and clothed, from the products of their farm. And these farmers have also furnished necessary food and luxuries for all classes, both rich and poor, for not less than 40,000,000 of people engaged in other occupations. Furthermore, they have produced a surplus for export to foreign countries to the value of \$553,215,317, which is 69.88 per cent of all the exports for the year of 1895.

Thus it appears that 42 per cent of the population of the United States have fed themselves and the other 58 per cent, and then furnished 69 per cent of all the exports to other countries, where the surplus products of the other 58 per cent of the population furnished but 31 per cent of the total exports.

The crops grown are some of them so vast that the mind cannot grasp them without some means of comparison. For instance, the corn crop of 1895 was 2,131,138,580 bushels, and more than that this year. This enormous quantity would load a train of 6,146,111 cars containing 350 bushels each, and 57,964 miles long, and sufficient to surround the globe twice and once through it.

Of wheat, 467,102,947 bushels. Of other grain crops, together with cotton, cattle, hogs and dairy products, in immense quantities, supply material for transportation business sufficient to tax the railroads of this country and steamships of other countries to their utmost capacity. And the farmers do it all. Not only that, but they supply the material for the converted use of the brewer and distiller who dispense the \$1,100,000,000 worth of liquor drunk annually in this country. And here is where I wish to enter my protest.

FARMERS AND LIQUOR LICENSE.

The intoxicating liquor sold by the licensed saloons in Massachusetts, in the fifty-three towns and cities, as against the 300 cities and towns with no license, where pauperism, crime and insanity is dealt out at five and ten cents a glass, filling the state prisons, almshouses and insane asylums with eight-tenths of their occupants, at great cost to the taxpayers. And inasmuch as real estate pays taxes on its full valuation, and three-fourths of the tax that should, by constitutional right, be paid by personal property; and as farmers' property is all in sight, and no escape, we declare that it is unjust that we, in unlicensed towns, should pay for the cost of financial damage caused by the licensed sale of liquor. Therefore, we urge the passage of the bill now pending the Legislature requiring that all license fees be paid into the state treasury within thirty days, in order to meet the cost to the state caused thereby. We urge you, farmers, to see to it that your representatives aid in its passage.

COMPARED WITH SILVER MINING.

In order to show more fully the importance of the business of farming, in comparison with other interests, I call your attention to the silver mining business that has agitated the public so much for a few years. Its insignificance, in comparison with that of farming, may be shown by comparing its products with one of our smaller crop values. There was mined in 1896 45,461,175 fine ounces of silver, which, at sixty-four cents per ounce, the present market value would amount to \$29,197,710. The average value of the potato crop for three years was \$93,026,729 per year, more than three times as great as the product of silver. And yet a few silver mine owners have endeavored to sacrifice national honor, the best interest of every laboring man, every salaried man, every pensioner, of every other industry—would overturn heaven and earth to induce Congress to double the value of their product. How ridiculously absurd would they think a similar attempt by farmers to induce Congress to increase the price of potatoes from fifty cents to a dollar a bushel at the expense of other industries.

Thus it appears that the business of farming feeds the whole people. It affords business for all railroad and ship transportation; it is the basis of the money transactions of the country. It pays its own taxes, and three-quarters of what should be paid by the money-bags of the whole country; but for their brass-facedness, they would blush for shame at the recital of this fact. The farmers render the life-blood that energizes the artistic, literary, political and moral power of the nation.

If the business of farming does so much for a public or national standpoint, what, it may be asked, does it do for the individual farmer? I fancy I can already hear some pessimistic deplainer say that the farmer is so heavily mortgaged that he can never be cleared; that farmers cannot get a living, and other calamities too numerous to mention. Let us see what are the facts.

THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS.

It is true that farming, like most other business, is in a transitional state (the details of which I cannot go into at this time), is a serious obstacle to success; but, notwithstanding, farming suffers no more than the average of other lines of business. All will admit that the great object of life is the pursuit of happiness. There are different ideas as to what real happiness is. But without question, the great, fundamental principle of happiness is the establishment of a home. This ambition is common to all mankind, and even to the beasts of the earth, the birds of the air and the fishes of the sea.

GOOD HOMES.

The object of this paper is to show that no business of life is better or so well adapted to the providing of a good, comfortable home, in which the whole character of man may be developed, as the farmer's business.

What is the present condition of farmers in New England or the whole of the United States? As to mortgages, I again refer to the report of the Secretary of Agriculture according to the census of 1890 (the last).

There was but 16 per cent of the total valuation of the farms of the United States mortgaged, and most of this was deferred payment on the purchase or for improvements. Doubtless there is any other business showing so little indebtedness as this. Railroad mortgages cover 45 per cent of their entire valuation. In 1894 there were 192 railroads in the hands of receivers, and many more have succumbed since, or, in other words, are bankrupt, representing \$2,200,000,000, about one-fourth of the total capitalization of the railroads of the country. Take all the banking institutions of the United States, they show an indebtedness, in the aggregate to their depositors, of \$4,904,343,721.33.

The railroad and banking houses are in reality debtor classes, and not the farmers. Statistics show that of all who enter into mercantile pur-

(Continued on second page.)

FARMERS' MEETING.

THE ESSAY.

(Continued from first page.)

suite of every hundred are bankrupt some time in their career, while not three in a hundred farmers who attend to their legitimate business do so; scarcely ever do we hear of a bankrupt farmer. But we are told that farmers don't make any money above a mere livelihood. Who, I ask, enjoys more than that? But is it true that they don't make money?

NO PAUPER FARMERS.

I can point to at least two farmers in this hall who claim to be worth more than \$200,000 each. Several others may be ranked among the \$100,000 class. Really, doesn't farming pay? You can't find a poor man who is a farmer in this audience, and furthermore, you may travel the state over and you can find scarcely a pauper farmer, and this can be said of no other class. Last October I took a four days' drive through the farmers in Essex County, and during that drive I did not see in a single instance a farmer's home that did not have the appearance of thrift and prosperity; embracing the conditions of a happy home. Can as much be said of any other class? The chancé and operative are tied to the bell and whistle. The manufacturer even so, and often passes many anxious hours planning ways and money to pay his workmen of a Saturday night. The farmer is independent of the bell and is his own master. The debtor's liabilities in interest increases day by day. The farmer's crops and stocks are daily growing. The merchant often lies awake nights comparing his bank account with his three days of grace on notes due. The farmer sleeps in quiet, and is recuperated.

HEALTH AND A COMPETENCY.

The merchant, manufacturer, politician and most professional men work on and on, amidst turmoil and anxiety, overstraining his nervous and physical powers in pursuit of wealth, often ending in paralysis, apoplexy or suicide, but, with the hope of some time owning a farm, where he may enjoy the beauties and bounties of nature, the sunrises and sunsets, the flowers and fruits and the many luxuries that can only be had upon the farm, where he may live in harmony and at peace with God and man. The farmer has got there already, and means to stay. I might point to many individual instances where men broken in health at middle life have left a prosperous business and taken a farm and have succeeded in regaining their health and gaining a competency. I might extend these comparisons much farther if need be, but these ought to suffice.

HARD WORK AND STEADY.

But our pessimistic friends ask, Do all of these blessings come by simply living on a farm? By no means; all blessings, to be enjoyed, must be earned. When the energetic, successful farmer finds his land too wet he underdrains; if too dry, he irrigates; he provides for early and late frosts, he learns the habits of the 30 or more species of insects injurious to his crops, and protects them from their ravages, he endeavors to improve his breeds of sheep, swine, horses and poultry, he studies to feed his crops and stocks in the most economical way.

SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST.

He goes forth as a conqueror to conquer and returns as a victorious hero. He learns to look upon these obstacles as blessings in disguise, for he has learned that God has provided all necessary elements, and man with talents sufficient to overcome apparent difficulties, and that he must work out his own salvation for his physical and spiritual condition. He has learned that if all was made easy, he would not be the man that he is, but would degenerate to the condition of the Hottentot, satisfied with a breech cloth and a mud shovel. The farmers of Massachusetts pay \$75,000 a year for Paris green to kill Colorado potato bugs alone, and since they have learned its value in spraying trees doubtless double that quantity is used. The farmer who fails to protect his crops from the ravages of the potato bug, the canker worm, the squash bug, gets no sympathy and deserves none for his laziness; here is a case of the survival of the fittest. Any one reading the monthly crop bulletins issued by the State and National Agricultural Department, would think that the failures of crops outnumbered by far the successes, yet the farmer somehow survives all these reverses.

The business of farming is far-reaching and of vast proportions. Most of our agriculturists export come in competition with the products of the whole world, and the cheap labor of other nations. Hereafter, with our improved farm machinery and virgin soil, and he has been able to make a good showing, notwithstanding; but conditions have changed. In India wheat was produced by the ancient method, and plowed with a crooked stick, and sown with the sickle, and trodden out and winnowed by tossing in the air. We could then compete with such application of labor; but now these and other nations have introduced our great reaping machines, and other improvements, including railroad transportation to the seaport. And so it has come to pass that our respectable farmer labor has come in direct competition with the low, degraded ten-cent labor of these foreign nations.

Hence we cannot expect to find an export market abroad for our surplus wheat to the extent of former years, after India has recovered from its present famine, caused by drought. This will react somewhat upon our own home market, the best in the world, calling for a change of products. We farmers may fairly expect to share in the profits of a vastly increased home market, as the result of a return to a protective tariff, under which for twenty-five years our country prospered as no other country ever did. These and other changed conditions have caused, and will continue to make, the transition before alluded to in the farmer's business, which will perhaps cause mistakes in some instances, but finally result in improved prosperity.

We often hear of the long days and tedious hours of labor that farmers subject themselves to. That seemed a hard hardship. This was true in former years, but not so now, for we have gradually changed our habits of long days in conformity with the prevailing custom, and since the introduction of improved labor-saving machinery on the farm, as elsewhere, the larger portion of farm labor is really enjoyable, and performed with pleasure. So that sympathy for the hard-working farmer may now be safely withheld and bestowed on some others who need it more in that respect.

GOOD LIVING A PART OF THE PROFIT.

I desire to call attention to the important fact in the business of farming—that farmers in reckoning the profits of their business seldom, if ever, consider the value of their house rent, more or less of fuel, milk, cream, eggs and poultry, the cost of fruit and vegetables; if the farmer does justly by his family, the privilege of a horse and carriage to ride when he and his family choose. All of these, if paid for at retail prices, as would be necessary in the city, would amount to a sum that would surprise one, a sum that would require the whole income of many a mechanic, business or salaried man. And yet the farmer does not begin to reckon his

profits until after he has reached the point where the others left off. You will perceive how unjust that is to the business of farming. We, as farmers, have no wish to discriminate against other producing classes, and are willing to share in the honor done to such, and others who are promoters of the best interests of mankind, but have nothing in common with the shysters, brokers, plutocrats and monopolists who gamble in futures of our products and stock, who, in attempting to make a corner in the market, sometimes get cornered themselves. Vampires who would suck the very life blood from all productive interests to subvert their own selfish ends. And now, friends, do not all rush into the farming business, for there are enough of us to feed you all, as heretofore.

THE DISCUSSION.

Chairman Hadwen—The meeting is open for discussion, and I have no doubt there may be many questions in your minds. I hope you will freely express your opinions upon the subject.

Mr. Bliss of Rehoboth—Is not organization a great need of the farmers as a class?

Mr. Ware—That is true, and it is an important point. The Patrons of Husbandry are closely organized to promote the social, educational and financial prosperity of farmers. The social is regarded as the most important. The farmers are isolated by their situation in thinly settled districts, and it is difficult, but very necessary, to stimulate the social life of the rural sections. There are other organizations—the Milk Producers' Association and others; but farmers are not making trusts like the other classes. Mr. Havermeier says he would not go into a business which would not pay him sixteen per cent profit. That is what comes of trusts and monopolies. But farmers are the most difficult class to hold together. I found that out in my early experience in connection with the Grange.

Mr. Sampson of Bedford, at this point proposed a rising vote of thanks for the essay, which he commended very highly. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Ware—When I spoke of persons leaving mercantile business on account of ill health, and attaining health and a competency from the farm, I was thinking of my friend Mr. Richards, here.

Mr. Richards—I was afraid the essayist referred to me; but I do think farming is a good business, and I did leave a city business to take up farming twenty years ago. I was in poor health. I had entered the hide and leather business at twenty-two years of age, but lost my health after awhile. I had more energy to buy a small farm and a little besides. I regained health, and have been more prosperous than before I left the city, although that may not be saying a great deal. But I have done as well as any of my associates who remained in business. I believe in farming as a business. A farmer must reckon time, interest, and all factors. He must be as faithful as he would expect a hired man to be. I believe I should be better off now if I had bought a farm in the first place, instead of going to the city.

Mr. Ware—Did you have a lot of money when you started farming?

Mr. Richards—No.

Mr. Frost—That is what runs the farm.

Mr. Richards—I had \$1000 at twenty-one, before I went to the city. I ought to have put that into a farm.

Mr. Ware told of a young mechanic in Methuen who had been earning three dollars per day, but after going to the farm for a living, he said he had earned more than he had in the shop. He raised vegetables and fruit.

Mr. Bliss—Farmers are not sufficiently organized. I should place business before the social or educational functions of the Grange. Business before pleasure. If farmers want to get up a social or an oyster supper or a dinner they don't need the Grange to assist them. The farmer ought to have an organization for business like the business men's societies in the cities. I believe that business should come first.

Mr. Ware—If you have represented fairly the doings of your Grange, it is not doing the best it could. Looking over the programs of subordinate and Pomona granges I find agricultural subjects of importance, to be discussed at meetings, and I have attended many excellent farmers' grange meetings. The primary purpose of the Grange is not to teach the "three R's" but to bring out men and women; the best there is in them. It trains speakers and men who can take part in public affairs. In my early days I remember I could hardly get upon my feet to speak and my knees trembled like Belshazzar's, my face was the color of your best quality of beef, and I hardly dared call my attention to my own, especially in the presence of ladies. But speaking in granges and other meetings gave me confidence.

Mr. Varnum Frost—I am surprised that it is possible to rake up with a fine-tooth comb a man in this commonwealth who could deliver such a glowing eulogy upon farming right in the face and eyes of the experiences of the last two or three years. Anybody can be a farmer. It is the regular thing for those who break down in business, to take to farming.

Mr. Ware—Beg pardon! But they go into the insurance and real estate business. (Laughter.)

Mr. Frost—So they do. But a great many call themselves farmers when they have money enough outside to meet all liabilities. Such farming has a decided advantage over the common kind. The trouble with farming is that the supply is five years in advance of the demand. What evidence have we for saying that farming is a good business? There are hundreds of abandoned farms in our state, are there not?

Mr. Ware—Only 200. They grow less and less every year. Most of them were hill farms and were never fit for profitable cultivation. Many of them are being taken up for summer residences.

Mr. Frost—That is a way to get around it. But there are at present, as I said, hundreds of these farms. I have seen them and others of the same kind while I have been travelling through the country. Establishments where the country is not worth over \$500. The old barn door would be hanging by the gills and the farm animals struggling

about the place. Some distance away the wife could be seen milking a cow. Ten dollars would clothe the whole family. Perhaps it is the farmer's first wife, but more likely his second or third. Likely two or three women have been worn out in the business. Farming is death on farmers' wives.

Now about those \$200,000 fellows. I know some of them; they live near Worcester, don't they? They have a keenened foresight beyond ordinary means, and they bought all the land in sight. But you may depend upon it, they pay a great deal more attention to these outside interests than they do to farming. These big stories about insects and Paris green remind one of the talk of the Gypsy Moth Commission. There is something behind all these insect statistics. Up at the State House they are trying to get up another Commission to bleed the public treasury. I mean the one on peach yellows.

Mr. Van Norton—The business of farming is susceptible of great advance in regard to the education of those who follow it. The Grange should educate the individual to personal effort, to "getting there" in person. I began farming eighteen years ago. I haven't a hundred dollars ahead. I have two boys who are trained to go into farming, working their way through the agricultural college. I want them to be impressed with the need of definite business-like farming, to find out when they spend a dollar whether it will bring them a dollar back or only 50 cents, and when they pay a hired man \$20 a month whether they will get back \$5 or \$15 or \$25. If they have a cow, whether she is worth \$20 or \$25 or \$30, and will pay a profit of \$5 or \$40. What is each of us doing to improve the need of careful, self-sacrificing attention to business? We must figure out results. What we want to know is not generalities about the business and glowing instances, we want to know something for ourselves. A friend of mine in Southboro has cows that produce milk at a profit. He gets only 25 cents a can, but he has cows that can produce milk profitably at that figure. Each farmer's success depends upon himself, not on the grange nor upon special legislation.

Mr. Sampson—The farmer can get along without cutting the corners quite so sharp. There is a simple secret of success. It is to have something to sell every day, and to live within the income. In my opinion the vital thing in regard to the farm is health. Look at this audience, hardly a pale face here. Outdoor exercise and rice whiffs of mother earth turned up with a plough, make men well. A daughter of mine did not get well very fast after typhoid fever, and the doctors said she must be outdoors. She went to the barn, and as a result she is now ahead of the other girls in two accomplishments, playing the piano and milking cows. She became strong and healthy. Let us enjoy ourselves as we go along. Our Chairman gets his healthy color by a personal interview with his apple trees. Money is not the only thing. The most important questions to be asked of a man are: Is he well and is he honest.

Mr. Van Norton—I meant to emphasize the need of studying independence; of individually getting down and getting at it. We are discussing farming as a business, and I was speaking of the business side.

Mr. Warren Frost—I think that farmers have a place in the world and that there is no occasion for anxiety about them. Study your own personality.

Mr. Ware—My friend in the rear says he has been on the farm for eighteen years, and hasn't \$100 ahead, but he has two sons in the business. It has been estimated that to bring a boy to manhood is worth at least \$5000. That is equal to \$10,000, and you have the satisfaction of having started two young men to be a success and an example to others.

I believe there is no business that presents so good a field as farming. The successful farmer becomes familiar with natural sciences, and is well versed in some of them. Such knowledge is essential to success.

Mr. Frost—Doubted.

Mr. Ware—You didn't know it, but you got there. You picked up such knowledge as you went along.

Mr. Frost—Upon what do you base your statements of the profits of farming?

Mr. Ware—Upon my own experience.

Mr. Frost—But the profits?

Mr. Ware—I am coming to that. I am seventy-five years "young," but I still enjoy farming. I have a pair of good Vermont horses and a sulky plough, and do my ploughing like a king; or I ride behind the same team on a mower. One horse is a fast walker, trained by me, and a horse and a sulky, and as a result she walked right away from the others at the county fair. At my home I look around me and see many a spreading tree, and every tree in sight was planted by my own hand.

Mr. Frost—Any profit in that?

Mr. Ware—Yes; profit that money cannot buy. [Applause.] I have learned to love my neighbor and all mankind. I received a letter recently, signed, "One of your thousand friends," and you are one of them, too, Brother Frost. The "profit" is overwhelming!

Mr. M. Sullivan—I came expecting to hear an excellent essay, and have been delighted with what I have heard. The speaker has uttered words which I know will be remembered. I have farmed in Revere for the past thirty years and am still in love with the business. I have two boys in the business, too, and know of no better occupation. My friends have often said to me that they envied my opportunity of bringing up the boys on a farm. One friend, a physician in good practice, says he is going back to Vermont upon a farm in order to give his boys a chance to learn to work. Farmers are important in town affairs. Take farmers out of local government and the government would be a failure. He reminds me of a certain real estate agent who sold a farm to an eastern man, giving him a glowing description of the property and of the advantages of the location. When the Eastern man went to settle upon

the farm he found that the deed located it far out into Lake Michigan. The boys leave the farm because they see their friends who work in the city making double their pay and going about as stylishly dressed and home from work at five o'clock. A friend who travels in the country districts says he can distinguish the farmers because they look stooped over and tired and careworn. Farming is a slave's life. No wonder the boys leave the farm.

Mr. Putnam, Danvers—Some of the young men seem to be turning their attention toward farming of late. Three of them have been consulting me recently, talking about farming, and thinking seriously of locating. One is from Harvard, and the other from the Veterinary College. I have been a teacher fifty years. It is a terribly monotonous life. One class enters, goes through, and is replaced by new pupils to be put through the routine.

Mr. Putnam—And could you "grow?" Mr. Putnam—Not in that way. But I have a farm home in Danvers. On the farm there is something new all the time; a variety of tasks, and innumerable country delights—the flowers and the birds. When a boy, I never realized the pleasures of the farm.

Mr. Ware—By way of reply to the gentleman at the rear of the hall (Mr. Stone), I should like to tell the story of two brothers. They both lived upon the farm until fifteen or sixteen years of age. One of them liked farming, the other thought there was no money in the business and he wanted to go to the city. His father was ready to help him and sent him to a commercial college. He secured a good position and worked his way up to a salary of \$1500 a year, which was certainly very good for a farmer's boy. He married, hired a house and set up an establishment of his own. He lived moderately, had no carriage and horse and few luxuries, but there was very little of his salary left at the end of the year.

The other boy had stayed on the farm, saving up a very little every year, fifty dollars or a hundred or so per year. After a time his father gave up the farm to his management. He married a good, healthy wife and saved a little money every year. He kept a horse and carriage, and his city brother would come out for a few weeks, glad to enjoy the country luxuries which he couldn't afford in the city.

The city brother was a skilled book-keeper and worked faithfully for his firm, but was not able to advance himself further. As he grew older it was thought best to "younger blood" to the business, and he was thrown out of a situation. He knew nothing else but the business of that firm, and had practically nothing ahead. The brother on the farm was well-to-do, and for the city brother now broken in health there was nothing to be done but to take his family out on the farm. He was kindly received by his farmer brother, who cared for him until the city brother died, and he also took care of the other's family. The country brother continues in good health with a bank account and a happy family. This sketch is not at all overdrawn, and fairly represents, to my mind, which of the two courses is in general most desirable.

Chairman Hadwen—The next Farmers' Meeting will be two weeks from today, in this hall. Subject, "The Best Means of Improving Common Farm Poultry," by SAMUEL CUSHMAN, of Pawtucket, R.I.

Silage Experience Summed Up.

According to the Agricultural Department at Washington, a compilation of experiments from various experiment stations shows the following results:

The Massachusetts station found mixed silage of corn and soja beans very fine. Vermont station made a superior silage of oats and vetch; also of oats and peas.

Silage produced more milk at the Ohio station, more butter at the Pennsylvania station, and more mutton at the Michigan station than beets. Even when there is a loss of twenty per cent in the feeding value of silage, it is cheaper feed than roots. The Wisconsin station preserves silage at a loss of only eight per cent of its feeding value. The loss in curing fodder is never less than twenty per cent.

The Pennsylvania station found silage and cured fodder about equally digestible. Kansas station grew 100 tons of silage on ten acres, and it sustained twenty-five head of cattle 192 days—a result which it is thought could not be attained with ten acres of cured fodder.

Use the largest variety of corn that will mature before frost. Experiments at the Pennsylvania station show that as corn approaches maturity the amount of nutriment it contains and the digestibility both increase very rapidly. The total yield of the digestible food by the matured crop was two or three times that of the same crop in the silk, and thirty-six per cent greater than when the ears began to glaze. The Minnesota station found that 100 pounds of ensilage from the northern and southern and sweet corn all contained about the same feeding value.

Silage is distinctively a cattle feed, but the Kansas station finds it not good for feeding bulls. It may be fed in moderation to horses, pigs, poultry and sheep, but sour silage is dangerous to sheep.

There has been some complaint that

Is he going to have a fit? No. He has seen Green's sacrifice prices, and they fit him. Cherry trees \$7.50 per 100; Plum trees \$5.00 per 100; Pear \$6.00 per 100. Apples \$6.00 per 100. Catalogue, also copy of "Fruit Growing Free."

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silage gives milk an unpleasant flavor. This is probably due to sour and decaying silage. The Kansas station found that if the silage be fed just after milking, instead of before, this disagreeable flavor disappears.

Sod Land Crops.

BOTH CORN AND POTATOES MAY BE CULTIVATED ON IT.

Sod-land is generally used for potatoes, and for an early crop it should be thoroughly rotten. Herein is one of the chief advantages of fall plowing for this crop. When the soil is very fertile, it has been found good practice to precede the potatoes with corn. The sod is broken late in the spring, and the preparation for corn and the cultivation of the crop tears the sod to pieces and causes it to rot thoroughly. This helps the soil for feeding to potato plants the next season. But in land of ordinary fertility the corn crop makes too great a drain upon the store of plant food, and this rotation is not advisable. The next best thing is to plow sod land in the fall for potatoes, and thus secure some decay during warm weather in the winter and early spring. Corn thrives on fermenting vegetable matter, and it is a rank feeder, but potatoes do better when fertilized with thoroughly rotten manure, whether it be in form of a sod or a barnyard fertilizer.

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My pen consists of eight White Plymouth Rock hens and one rooster. These hens laid 2,312 eggs in 365 days, or on an average of 289 per hen for the year. Estimated by the Pittsburgh (Pa.) market, week by week, each hen laid during the year \$5.02 worth of eggs. They were kept in a house 12x20 feet long, divided into two parts, each 10x12, one part being used for a scratching shed and the other part containing the nests and roosts. The building is about seven feet high and is a frame, weatherboarded with pine siding and celled with matched pine flooring, which makes the house very warm. You will notice that this pen has plenty of room. The floor consists of mother earth and is covered about four inches deep in the fall with road dust and sand. The building runs east and west, facing the south.

In the south of the building are two windows, which extend from the floor to the height of the building, thus admitting plenty of sunshine and light, so necessary to the comfort and happiness to the fowls. The perches are about three feet from the floor, and under them the droppings boards. A house of this kind in which fowls are housed during the winter months, with the right kind of food and the proper care, will insure the poultryman eggs all winter. My hens were not out during last December and January, and they were as healthy, happy and contented as if they were roaming the fields during the happy summer months. They were all agree with song and contentment and shelled out eggs every day, even during the coldest days of last winter.

They have free access to oysters shells and grit. I give them twice a week fresh granulated bone. Their food consists of a warm breakfast, equal parts of bran, white middlings and chopped corn and oats, and into this I put for them fine beef meal. At noon I feed wheat, which is thrown into the scratching shed. This gives them exercise in obtaining their noon meal. In the evening they are fed whole corn. During the time from the first of April until the first of November, I feed the same, with this change: In the morning their mash is mixed with cold water; in the evening wheat takes the place of corn. Cleanliness is a very important matter in regard to the maintenance of health for your fowls. I clean the house twice a week during the winter and in the summer every other day. I have been breeding Plymouth Rocks now for five years, and have not as yet had any disease, and I attribute it to cleanliness and proper care.—W. S. Stevens, in Reliable Poultry Journal.

TREATMENT OF POULTRY MANURE.

Poultry manure should be removed from the houses every day, and be kept under cover. Every time droppings are added to the pile, sprinkle on either land plaster or kainit. The latter is to be preferred, because it contains potash, in which the poultry manures are deficient. The object of the addition is to prevent the escape of ammonia, and the nose will be a safe guide in determining the amount of kainit to use. The quantity necessary will vary with the degree of moisture of the manure and the temperature of the air. Add enough so that there is no odor of ammonia when the pile is stirred. The mixture of the kainit with hen manure fits it for use for hoed crops. It should be made fine before application.

ROUP.

In speaking of roup in winter, a writer says: "Use wooden troughs and clean them every day, as disease is usually established and spread through the drinking water. Have a hospital, which should be kept clean and treated in the same manner, to which sick birds should be removed. Hoarse breathing, lumps on the face, foul odor and cough are indications of roup, a discharge from the nostrils also being noticed. The lumps on the face, with swollen eyes, accompanied with a very foul odor to the breath of the sick bird, indicates the roup in a severe form. It will be quite a saving of time and labor, as well as of birds, to use air-slaked lime, even without the aid of the carbolic acid, and one cannot begin too early in the season."

WHAT TO DO WITH FAT HENS.

When a hen becomes very fat, she not only is a poor layer, but will become broody, have leg weakness, and be unfit for anything but the pot. Such hens should be fed only once a day, at night, the meal to consist of a pound of lean meat to twenty hens, with a handful of

grain for them to hunt up. They will then be hungry during the day, will search and work for food, while the indigestion of a few grains thrown out at night will cause them to keep at work until late. Meat contains little fat producing elements, if lean, and will greatly promote laying as soon as the surplus fat is removed, which can only be done by compelling the hens to exercise. If the hens are kept on this exercise diet for a week, they will be in better health afterwards; and if they begin to lay and lay well, the one meal per day may be continued.—Cable.

Run-Out Pastures

One very common complaint with many meadows and pastures is that they run out. This is largely due to the fact that they are not plowed up and a short rotation practiced. There is only one good reason for leaving a piece of land as pasture for many years. If it is so rough, or for any reason it cannot be plowed with ease or efficiency, then the longer it is left in pasture the better. Your land may be so hilly that you do not wish to re-plow it. In that case thoroughly scarify the surface with the harrow; then sow a mixture of grass seeds made up of blue grass, red clover, white clover, orchard grass and timothy made up of the following proportions: 1 lb. blue grass, 1 lb. red clover, 1 lb. white clover, 6 lbs. orchard grass and 10 lbs. timothy per acre. Harrow the field again and thoroughly roll. After the grass is up give it a top-dressing of 75 lbs. of nitrate of soda, 150 lbs. superphosphate and 100 lbs. of kainit.

If your land is level enough so that it can be plowed and cultivated handily, then plow and plant to corn. Fertilize with fifty lbs. nitrate of soda, 200 lbs. dissolved phosphate rock and seventy lbs. muriate of potash. Plant the corn in rows three and one-half feet apart, with hills three feet apart in the row. Give extra good culture. There is no crop which will furnish you with so much forage per acre as corn. It makes excellent food for green soiling or for silo, or to cut and cure the stalks for fodder. More corn can be kept where a system of green soiling is practiced than where pastures alone are relied upon to furnish summer feed. Oats and peas planted in succession of about two weeks make excellent forage.

Very frequently these old meadows are suffering from an unusual degree of acidity of the soil, in which case the pasture not only runs out, but other crops would have difficulty in maintaining themselves there. Apply five bushels of quick or caustic lime to about one-eighth of an acre and notice the effect. Very frequently this will do much toward restoring the land to its proper condition.—Country Gentleman.

The Manurial Value of Soot.

Soot is evidently a stimulant much favored for many plants and crops by some exhibitors, and when judiciously applied there is no doubt but that it is a cheap and valuable manure; but it should be used carefully at first by those who are unacquainted with its manurial properties. Soot is a useful stimulant for almost any bulb or tuberous-rooted plant, if it is not given in excess. But it is difficult to say what quantity would be in excess of the requirements of any particular crop, so much depends on the quality of the soil. Ground that has been liberally manured previously for the same crop would require but one dressing, whereas, in the case of poor soil, three applications, extending over a period of two months, would not be too much. Then again, the quantity used at one application makes all the difference.

If just enough is given to cover the surface, so as to make it look black, that is better than a larger dressing. In the growing season many crops in the kitchen garden, where the soil is poor, will be greatly benefited by a dressing of soot, especially such subjects as peas, scarlet runners, French beans, lettuce and turnips.

The soot should be sprinkled along each side of the rows over a space nine inches wide, and a hoe or rake used to mix it with the surface soil. As soon as this is done a gentle watering should be given. In less than a fortnight the crops will show by the darker color of their leaves that they are benefited by such attention.

The Honey Supply.

People who fear an over-supply of honey should remember that at present the annual honey yield in this country is not sufficient to allow each person one pound a year. Estimating that one-half the people do not care for honey and that one-half the remainder are too poor to buy even a pound or two, there remain only four pounds to each person, rather a meager annual allowance.

THE VERY BEST.

FOR SALE—Bull calf by the great Brown Bessie No. 34550, out of Plumage, 17 lbs. 6 oz. daughter of the great Diplomat 19210, and half sister of Merry Maiden, sweetest cow at World's Fair. Combines the blood of World's Fair winners. Dropped Sept. 6, 1896. Solid color. This is your opportunity to get the best Jersey breed can produce. You can get it at Hood Farm. You cannot get it elsewhere. Address HOOD FARM, Lowell, Mass.

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De Laval Cream Separators are not lowered to begin with. Still they are truly cheap. Production not cost demonstrates cheapness. They are good machines and durable ones. You use the drill, the reaper, the thrasher a few days or weeks in the year. You use the separator once or twice a day every day in the year. It is saving and producing you something every time you put milk through it. It pays you better ten times over than anything else. It is by far the cheapest machine on the farm.

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 Randolph Canal Sta. 74 Cortlandt Street,
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for a lover of honey. This estimate makes no allowance for the amount consumed by bakers, tobaccoists, confectioners, etc., who annually consume many tons. One Wisconsin biscuit and confectionary establishment alone is reported to use ten tons annually.

Dairy Question Box.

Below are a few of the questions and answers at the last meeting of the Rochester, N.Y., Grange. Messrs. Converse, Gould and other experts were present.

"What is the remedy for a cow giving bitter milk?"

Mr. Cook—It depends on the cause producing it. It may be the cow is not in proper condition. The food or water may be at fault. Find out the cause, then it can be removed.

Mr. Gould—Look carefully to the food supply, as that is often a producing cause.

"Who knows anything about green buckwheat as a soiling crop?"

Mr. Peckham—I think I can get more milk from feeding green buckwheat than from any other green feed I have ever used. But you want to be careful to put some cornmeal with it or cows will become poor.

Mr. Cook—But good, well matured corn, I believe, much better.

"What results are the farmers getting from green oats which were cut to save them from the army worm?"

Mr. Mills—With oats cut when just in the milk, the results have been satisfactory.

Mr. Peckham gave the experience of Mr. Haynor, who sowed salt last season through a field of oats and drove away the army worm.

"How can we prevent ensilage moulding on the top while feeding?"

Mr. Gould—Sprinkle with a watering pot, and you won't be troubled with mould much that day.

"Can milk be made profitable in winter without ensilage?"

Mr. Gould—Yes, it can, of course, be done.

"Can a cow be made to give as much milk on dry corn fodder as on hay?"

Mr. Peckham—I say No.

Mr. Converse—It depends on the quality of the hay.

"What is the best method for reseed-ing our meadows?"

Mr. Cook and many others who have experimented in that line recommended the seeding of meadows without any grain crop.

"Which is the cheaper food for milk, cheap wheat bran or cheap gluten?"

Mr. Mills—I find gluten meal giving excellent results.

Orchard Pruning.

Don't get a crazy fit and go into your orchard with an axe, and cut and slash the branches off and think you are pruning. Every stroke with a tool on a tree is a stroke at its life, unless very wisely made. There need be no elaborate or stylish methods of pruning adopted. Common sense is a good guide, but if a person judges his knowledge of pruning by the number of cuts he makes, he is sadly lacking in common sense, and should never be allowed to prune.

All dead or sickly branches should come off, all that cross or chafe each other should be relieved by the removal of the one which can best be spared. Do not cut great open spaces in the tree-tops, and so let in too much hot sunshine, and injure the limbs that have been used to being shaded. It is dangerous to prune cherry trees at all; they are rarely benefited by so doing, but are often injured. Train old orchard trees to have low, broad heads, which will shade the trunks, lessen the purchase of the winds, and make more convenient the gathering of the fruit.—Cable.

Brood Sows.

Owing to the improved demand for pork, we will have better prices for young pigs during the coming spring. Breeding sows need plenty of exercise. Give them a variety of food, such as millfeed, slop, cabbage leaves, beets and a mixture of cut clover, hay and millfeed. Add two quarts of oil meal to every barrel of slop. The oil meal keeps the bowels open and improves the digestion. Keep each sow in a clean, well-bedded, dry pen. Make her gentle by carding her twice a week. By kind treatment they can be made as gentle as the house dog. A mixture of wood ashes, salt, charcoal, sulphur and hard coal should be fed twice a week, giving one pint to each. If vegetables cannot be fed, such as beets or cabbage, give sows.

Three Tasks for Winter.

In many localities the work of digging ditches in winter may be carried on with profit and for the permanent improvement of the land. Let them be laid out before the ground freezes, and the digging commenced by plowing several furrows and throwing out the loosened topsoil with the shovel. The work may then be carried on in cold weather by loosening the bottom soil before each night, which will prevent hard freezing, or by placing small bundles of straw in the ditch. As the work deepens, even this care will be hardly necessary. Where a ditching plow is used the bottom soil may be quickly loosened and the ditch prepared for a cold night. Drawing the tile for filling may be profitably done in winter.

A winter's task many years ago for man and team consisted of drawing sand for a very clayey soil for improving its texture. It was too adhesive for garden crops. A sandhole was at convenient drawing distance, and a stratum three inches thick was spread over a large portion of the ground. Cultivation soon intermixed it well with the soil, and it has become a capital bed for all crops. The sand remains there; it does not lessen or deteriorate in quantity or quality, as may be the case with manure, the sand being neither soluble nor volatile. This successful experiment suggests others which may be partly unlike it, but which may supply good winter employment.

Where there is no silo, and the owner has a tread-power and cutting machine, a good employment consists in cutting up the corn fodder for feeding to cattle, by which far less will be wasted than by feeding the long stalks to them. Tials which have been made have proved that the fodder was doubled in value to them, and the great superiority was shown of the short manure made as compared with long-stalk manure.

Calves and Young Stock.

They thrive best when given plenty of exercise. Keep the calves and yearlings separate. Give each calf daily one quart of oat chop and one quart of millfeed. Yearlings should have two quarts of millfeed and one quart of oat chop. Give the grain dry, and give plenty of long fodder, rough hay and straw. Keep them growing, and let them eat plenty of rough feed to distend their paunches. Our aim should be to raise large-sized, healthy cows, with big appetites and a vigorous digestion. Small, delicate cows, however beautiful they may be, are seldom profitable.

Take Care of Implements.

It is doubtless true that it costs more in these days to stock a farm with tools and implements than it did in olden times, when prices of most farm products were as high, if not higher, than now. Yet, despite the cost, the new implements do so much better work that farmers find them a necessity. All the more, therefore, they should take good care of them when bought. More tools rust by exposure to wind and rains than are worn out in actual use. The saving of money by keeping implements housed is the most profitable economy the farmer can practice.—Progressive Farmer.

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 CONDITION
 WILL MAKE HENS LAY.
POWDER

It will keep your chickens strong and healthy. It will make young pullets lay early. Worth its weight in gold for moulting hens, and prevents all diseases.

Large Cans Most Economical to Buy. Sold by Drugists, Grocers and Feed Dealers. It is a powerful Food Digestive. It will make young pullets lay early. Worth its weight in gold for moulting hens, and prevents all diseases.

If you can't get it send to us. Ask First Single pack 50 cts. Five 2-1/2 lbs. cans \$1.00. Six 3-1/2 lbs. cans \$1.50. Postage paid. Write for sample and price list. L. B. JOHNSON & CO., 24 Custom House St., Boston, Mass.

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FOR POULTRY, YOUNG CHICKS, DUCKS, GEESE, ETC.

The iron and magnesium contained in this grit, assimilated as a tonic, is in itself of more value than all other grits combined. "Use no other." If your hens are not laying eggs, try MICA CRYSTAL GRIT.

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CALLA, Ohio, Jan. 19, 1897.

"I should just as soon think of keeping house without a stove as poultry without your grit."—C. E. MURPHY.

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BRADLEY'S
POTATO GROWING PAYS
 when a large crop of smooth-skinned, solid-fleshed, even-sized potatoes is secured.
 Thousands of farmers annually make money on potatoes by using Bradley's Fertilizers exclusively, having found them absolutely unequalled for uniform reliability and crop-producing powers. It would pay you to profit by their experience.

Send postal card to-day for a free copy of the "American Farmer," and read their story.

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 but have sold direct to the consumer for 24 years, at wholesale prices, saving them the dealers' profit. This applies to all our tools. Every farmer who examines them before buying, will find them the best thing warranted. 100 styles of Carriages, 50 styles of Harnesses, 50 styles of Low-boys, 50 styles of Horse-drawn Wagons, etc. Send for our large Free Catalogue, which shows all our goods for sale.

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GREGORY'S HOME GROWN SEEDS
 are known the country over to be exceptionally reliable. They have a reputation of forty years back of them. They are sold under three warrants. It would not be wise to plant without consulting Gregory's Vegetable and Flower Seed Catalogue for 1897. It describes with engravings several new varieties of great merit. It can be found in no other catalogue. It is sent free to anyone anywhere.

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 A good opening for the right man who means business. For particulars apply to **EDMUND HERSEY, CEDAR HEDGE FARM, Hingham, Mass.**

Poultry Farms For Sale and To Rent.

POULTRY FARM, 46 acres, 12 in tillage, balance pasture and wood. 125 fruit trees, variety small fruits. Nearly new house 8 rooms painted and blinded. Barn 30x40; 7 hen houses. Buildings on high, dry land; 1 1/2 miles to P. O., stores, churches and station; near good markets. On best R.R. line out of Boston. 24 miles. Price \$2800, \$400 down; balance easy.

NICELY ADAPTED for poultry raising, 18 miles from Boston, 6 from Lowell; 12 acres Brook on farm; 2 cottages, one of 9 rooms the other 5 rooms. Good neighborhood, near school, 1 1/2 miles to station. Price for all \$1500, or will sell 11 acres and smaller cottage for \$800. Easy terms. No barn; a good place for poultry and small fruits.

8 MILES FROM BOSTON, 7 acres land; house 8 rooms nearly new. Best of spring water in house; barn 22x26; henhouse for 75 or 100 hens; buildings first-class; land slopes east. 3 minutes to electric. Price \$3500, \$500 down. Night rent to right parties.

18 MILES FROM PARK ST. station, Boston; 8 room house, furnace; stable 12x30; 1 acre land; 1/4 mile to station, 1/4 mile to P. O. and school; price \$2600.

POULTRYMEN, no waiting to build up a business. We offer you all established and profitable business such as to require sale. 9 newly built hen houses, thoroughly dry and vermin proof, perfect drainage and exposure. Brooder house, 10x108, hot water heat; cook house 12x20, 2 sets of tables, 100 line bearing apple trees; house 14 rooms; buildings all first-class. Beautiful location, 10 minutes to steam and electric. 35 acres of the very best land. Near Boston and other good markets.

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MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN

BOSTON, FEBRUARY 13, 1897.
Persons desiring a change in the address of their paper must state where the paper has been sent as well as the new direction.

PLOUGHMAN FARMERS' MEETING.

Saturday, Feb. 20—10 A.M.
ESSAY BY SAMUEL CUSHMAN, of Pawtucket, R.I.
Subject: "The Best Means of Improving Common Farm Poultry."

The next MASS. PLOUGHMAN Farmers' Meeting will be held in Wesleyan Hall, 36 Bromfield St., Boston, Saturday, February 20, at 10 o'clock A.M.

Mr. CUSHMAN is the well-known poultry specialist of the Rhode Island Station, and had the conducting of the famous experiments with poultry, turkeys and geese. These experiments are everywhere considered the most remarkable of the kind of any experiments ever conducted by an American Station. The comparative test of breeds of geese, recently described in this paper, was managed by Mr. Cushman. It appears evident that no one is better prepared to give a thorough and authoritative address than is Mr. Cushman. Everybody at all interested in poultry is being invited. The subject is one of great importance. Poultrymen are requested to contribute their experience. Mr. Cushman is willing and competent to answer any question upon poultry keeping.

The Massachusetts Cattle Commission has removed to the new quarters in the Commonwealth building, Mount Vernon street.

The poultry meetings are always popular among the ladies, and it is expected that quite a large number of farmers' wives and daughters will attend Saturday, Feb. 20. Women are always handy with poultry. They should attend such meetings.

FRANCIS H. APPLETON, president of the New England Agricultural Society, was, on Friday last, at Washington, D. C., elected president of the American Forestry Association, to succeed the Hon. J. Sterling Morton, the present Secretary of Agriculture.

EACH of the farmers' meetings so far this season has been larger than the one preceding. At this rate of increase the new hall will sometime prove too small. Even now those who come late are often obliged to take a seat too far back to give best satisfaction. Come early.

The peach yellows bill meets with as much opposition as it did last year. But Mr. Clement and his friends have collected more evidence than they did last season, and the struggle is likely to be more severe. At least, a great many people will learn more about peaches than they knew before.

The pith of corn stalks is likely soon to have a market value. Factories have been erected to extract the pith, which is to make a protective lining for war vessels, and for many other purposes. After the pith has been taken out, the rest of the corn plant is ground for cattle food, and is claimed to be better than hay for that purpose.

The average run of farmers are not making much profit during the prevailing depression in prices for farm crops. Those who do make money either have an extra good farm, or they have managed to get out of the common routine, and have conducted the business side of farming in such a way as to obtain special prices for what they sell, or so as to produce their product at especially low cost.

The days of free distribution of seed by the Government would seem to be about over, if public sentiment is to be considered. The system has few friends, while the seedsmen and the Department authorities are solidly against it. Even the recipients are somewhat disgusted to receive a quality of seed, sometimes under grade and of the common varieties, under grade of something cheap. At the Market Gardeners' meeting last Saturday the general verdict was that the government seeds were of no particular value. The friends of the system are the congressmen who imagine that the seed gifts will carry favor with their rural constituency.

YOUNG men will find material for thought in the essay and discussion of last Saturday's farmers' meeting. Those who live on the farm are thoroughly familiar with the drawbacks of the business, but young men in particular often fail to realize its equally weighty advantages until they have left the country, and have grown too old, perhaps, to easily change back again to the farm. The city abounds with men who never should have left the farm. The views of an enthusiastic farmer like Mr. Ware, presented with the force and eloquence of sincerity, cannot fail to set many a man to thinking. Read the report, discussion included. Both sides are considered, and some of the obstacles are touched upon by the farmers themselves. What do you think of farming?

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We offer One Hundred Dollars reward for any case of catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.
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We, the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligations made by him.
WEST & TRACY,
Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O.
WALDING, KIRKMAN & MARVIN,
Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Testimonials sent free. Price 75c. per bottle. Sold by all Druggists.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

Bad crops in northwest Louisiana have led to great distress among the farmers. A four months' drought of last season caused everything to fail when planted upon the sandy soils of the uplands. About 100,000 people are impoverished, and many of them are without seed for next year's crops.

One of the worst criminals of modern times is now safely behind steel bars at San Francisco, and it is to be hoped that a long series of misdeeds have come to an end. He is Frank Butler, the Australian murderer, accused of the death of a score of men by cold-blooded murder. His scheme of crime was unique. He selected for his victims men who had come among the Australian colonists in search of gold. They were unknown men, concerning whose disappearance it was extremely unlikely that inquiry would be made. These men he would lure into the mountains upon the pretense of showing them a valuable mineral vein. When he had led them beyond the limits of human habitation, he would kill them. He then buried the body in the hole which the victim had dug for himself, destroyed, as well as he could, all traces of the crime, and returned to civilization for a fresh victim. Like most great criminals, he finally grew careless, and his carelessness will probably be his undoing. He selected for his last victim a man who had many friends. The man was missed and the search for him revealed the crime. Butler escaped upon a vessel bound for San Francisco, but was arrested upon his arrival.

Gradual improvement, correctly designates the business situation. Four years of depression are not outgrown in a day, nor a month; yet the gain during the past two or three months has been quite considerable. The improvement would be more rapid but for the constant hearing of war rumors and other disturbing items. Most of the leading industries report a better state of affairs. Dry goods, wool, cotton, and leather manufacturers are all selling more readily and prices are firmer. Iron, steel, lumber and building materials are in better demand. The general public show a return of confidence by picking up the choice investment stocks.

The report just published of the manufacturing statistics for 1895, shows an increase of the number of persons employed to the extent of 22,861. With the coming of better times and steady work this rapidly increasing army of laborers implies a better market for farm products. In the nine leading industries the following increases in the average number of persons employed are given: boots and shoes, 2.85 p. c.; carpenters, 22.41 p. c.; cotton goods, 7.28 p. c.; leather, 12.90 p. c.; machines and machinery, 18.28 p. c.; metals and metallurgical goods, 12.04 p. c.; paper and paper goods, 5.59 p. c.; woollen goods, 11.11 p. c.; and worsted goods, 29.91 p. c. The farmers can feed them all.

Ayrshire Dairy Tests.

The result of the Home Dairy test, conducted by the Ayrshire Breeders' Association, for 1896, showed two entries, as follows: George H. Yeaton, Dover, N. H., 10 cows, tested two days in June and two days in December, by an agent from the N. H. Experiment Station, gave 1256 lbs. of milk, 4.13 per cent butter fat, 13.17 per cent total solids, 50.88 lbs. butter fat. The food in June being pasture by day, with one feed of hay, three quarts bran, two quarts gluten feed and two quarts cotton seed meal daily. In December, two feeds of ensilage, two feeds of hay, with five quarts bran, three quarts gluten feed and two quarts cotton seed meal daily.

C. M. Winslow, Brandon, Vt., 10 cows, tested by an agent from the Experiment Station, Burlington, Vt., gave 1047 lbs. milk, 4.12 per cent butter fat, 12.89 per cent total solids, 42.03 lbs. butter fat. The food in June being pasture with four quarts bran daily. In December, hay, with six quarts bran, one-half quart gluten meal, one-half quart cotton seed meal, one-half quart oil meal daily.

To Extend Market Limits.

The hearing in regard to extending the market limits takes place next Tuesday, on the offices of the Boston Commissioners of Streets.

The proposition is to include all of that part of the Atlantic avenue between the northern line of India street and the northern line of Richmond street extended across said avenue, and the territory bounded by the avenue, State street, Commercial and Chatham streets, Merchants Row, Faneuil Hall square, Dock square, North and Richmond streets; and also to include that part of Blackstone street, between North street and Haymarket square.

Cattle Owners Meet.

At the meeting of the Farmers and Cattle Owners' Protective Association at Worcester, Tuesday, all was harmony and nothing but approval was expressed concerning the present State Cattle Commission. These officers were chosen:

President, Hon. C. A. Gleason of New Braintree; Vice Presidents, W. D. Rud of South Natick and C. E. Parker of Holden; Secretary, J. L. Harrington of Lunenburg; Treasurer, W. C. Jewett of Worcester; Executive Committee, C. E. Lewis of South Framingham, J. M. Parker of Haverhill, E. M. Allen of Franklin, O. S. Patch of Concord, W. H. Way of North Cambridge, A. A. Newton of Auburn, S. J. Kendall of Worcester, Dr. Austin Peters of Boston, George L. Whitcomb of Townsend, Herbert Myrick of Springfield, G. M. Whitaker of Boston, L. F. Herrick of Milbury, L. A. Hickox of Weymouth, E. S. Morehart of Hyannis.

"A WONDER OF WONDERS!"

Indorsement Extraordinary—Senator Sanford—Dr. Greene's Nervura.

Dr. Greene's Nervura Unequaled and Unrivaled—The Best Medicine in the World—Use it Now as a Spring Remedy for the Blood and Nerves.



SENATOR JUSTIN O. SANFORD, MEMBER STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

Dr. Greene's Nervura blood and nerve remedy is called "The wonder of wonders," for it is acknowledged by physicians and the people as unrivaled in all the world, unequaled by any other remedy on earth.

In effecting wonderful cures and by its marvelous powers to restore health, Dr. Greene's Nervura stands far above all other remedies. It is, in fact, the King of Medicines, for it always cures, it always makes the people well.

Senator Justin O. Sanford of Stamford, Vt., member of the State Board of Agriculture and President of the State Dairyman's Association, who is known throughout the length and breadth of our country, says:—
"I have been made acquainted with the results of the use of Dr. Greene's Nervura blood and nerve remedy upon many of my friends, and in all cases which have come under my observation the results have been most happy, and I can but say that I look upon it with favor as a very desirable family remedy. My permission is given to publish this letter for others' good."

No remedy in the world's history ever had such an overwhelming number of testimonials of cures. These testimonials of the wonderful curative powers of Dr.

Greene's Nervura blood and nerve remedy come from persons highest in the honor and esteem of their fellow-men, whom everybody knows and in whose word all have absolute confidence. Statesmen in exalted official positions, lawyers, ministers, doctors, merchants, all add the weight of their words of praise and thanks for this truly grand medicine, while a perfect avalanche of testimonials pour in from the common people everywhere, from the great rank and file of humanity who thus express their profound gratitude for the remarkable remedy which has cured them, by recommending others to use it also and be restored to health as they have been. If you are wise, if you desire to regain your health and to be well and strong again, you will heed the advice of thousands upon thousands who have been cured by this veritable giant among medicines, and use Dr. Greene's Nervura blood and nerve remedy. It will surely cure you—it will surely make you well.

Dr. Greene's Cathartic Pills are the perfect pills for biliousness and constipation. Dr. Greene, 34 Temple Place, Boston, Mass., the most successful physician in curing diseases, can be consulted free, personally or by letter.

Items of Farm News.

American sheep during the year 1896 have been landed in Liverpool in greater numbers than during any preceding year. They consisted largely of corn-fattened muttons.

The sale of oleomargarine in Connecticut is very limited at the present time. Six United States licenses have been taken out; these dealers are selling white oleomargarine, according to law.

The Wisconsin Experiment Station in the past has declared that 100 pounds of sweet whey is worth seven cents as a promoter of flesh and health in calves, while sour whey is not worth anything.

The National Creamery Buttermakers' Association will offer handsome gold and silver medals for butter to be exhibited at the convention at Owatonna, Minn., February 15 to 20. It will also divide \$2000 among exhibitors whose butter scores over ninety-five per cent.

Two brothers in Essex, Conn., have captured, so far this season, twenty-five foxes, fifty muskrats, seventy-five skunks, three otters, thirty coons, and many head of smaller game. They get a good market price for both skins and game.

A new colony, known as Union City, has just been opened on 90,000 acres of land in Cherokee County, Ga.

Agriculture Experiment Station.

Bulletin 55, of the Burlington, Vt., Experiment Station treats of "Apple Growing in Grand Isle County." It gives statistics of the crop for the past year, and briefly states the methods in vogue as regards orchard stock, cultivation, fertilization, wind breaks, spraying, grafting, picking, storing, marketing, etc.

It is thought that the bulletin will be helpful throughout the State to those interested in apple growing. It will be sent free of charge on application to the Experiment Station, Burlington, Vt. A postal card is sufficient.

Mass. Agricultural College.

President Goodell has been in Washington recently in the interests of the college. His work is of such a nature as to compel his frequent absence from Amherst. During these occasions the supervision of the immediate affairs of the college falls upon Prof. Samuel T. Maynard.

The sales of the Lowell Fertilizer Company last year were three times greater than ever before. That appears like sufficient evidence of the estimation in which their goods are held by the public.

Read and Run.

—New Hampshire has 29,151 farms.

—Dr. C. W. Cooper of Northampton, Mass., drowned himself at sea.

—Joseph B. Holt is on trial at Lewiston, Me., for the murder of his child.

—The balance of the sugar-bounty appropriation, \$1,085,000, is wanted by the planters.

—The American Spirits Manufacturing Co. will compete with foreign alcohol producers.

Edison, it is stated, has made another valuable discovery in connection with the fluoroscope.

—Commander Booth-Tucker, of the Salvation Army, is planning to establish social settlements for the moral betterment of Chicago, Ill.

—An heroic deed of McKinley, the work of Artist Wirt Leland, now in Italy, is on its way to Cleveland, O., where it will be placed in the Capitol.

There is a thing (unless it be the sewing machine) that has lightened women's labor as much as Dobbins' Electric Soap, constantly sold since 1865. All grocers have it. Have you made its acquaintance? Try it.

—The 119th anniversary of the signing of the treaty of alliance between France and the American Colonies was celebrated with a banquet in New York City by the Sons of the American Revolution.

—Contrary to an announcement made last year, the estate of the late Henry C. Cranston, the Providence, R. I., banker, who died a year ago, will hardly enable the executors to pay the numerous creditors twenty-five cents on the dollar.

—The rear-end collision occurred on the Fitchburg Railroad, just east of Concord Junction station, early last Sunday morning. The east-bound track was blocked until shortly before noon. Several freight cars were wrecked. No one was injured.

—A head-end collision between freight trains occurred last Sunday on the Louisville & Nashville Railroad near Myers switch, nine miles from Montgomery, Ala., caused by the carelessness of the telegraph operator in failing to signal the south-bound train. Several were injured.

—Unless Congress acts promptly regarding the breach of the sea at Wauwinnet Beach, the harbor of Nantucket, upon which the Government has expended nearly half a million dollars, will either be destroyed or, at least, filled up so that none except the lightest draught vessels can enter.

Pres. J. H. Hale Speaks.

MEETING CONN. POMOLOGICAL SOCIETY, HARTFORD, FEB. 9 AND 10.
President J. H. Hale, in his opening address at the meeting of the Conn. Pomological Society Tuesday, said, in part: The year just past has been a particularly trying one for the fruit growing interests of Connecticut. The present time was a loss of revenue of fully half a million dollars.

FIVE CROPS IN SIX YEARS.
Five successive crops previously, however, had demonstrated that the climate of Connecticut was fully as reliable as that of the so-called "peach growing states," and now with the nearly one million trees in the orchards of the state, the business would continue to be a profitable industry if in every orchard and garden a vigorous fight was continued against the dread disease, the Yellows.

THE APPLE STILL KING.
And all interested in growing, selling and eating this delicious fruit would co-operate with the State Peach Commission in driving and keeping out this disease. Those who would repeat the law are undoubtedly honest in their convictions, but woefully ignorant of the real disease and its effects. But one commercial orchardist was known to be opposed to the law, most of the opponents being disgruntled owners of single trees or small groups of them, who had rather have disease and death among their trees than to receive suggestions and help from the state. The owners of over 60 per cent of the trees in the state were against repeal.

Prices ruled very low and net cash returns are not so great as in former years, but the great crop caused us to seek wider markets and a trade has been established that will be of lasting benefit. Many small towns all through the South had apples in car lots, for the first time, in 1896, and in future years will take many more at higher prices. With good culture, proper feeding, spraying and thinning, the apple is still the King of Fruits for Connecticut.

With careful grading and honest packing, it will always be a safe and sure money crop, and that too on much of our rough hilly lands of little value for other crops.

CHERRIES AND PLUMS.
Cherry planting has been greatly neglected; in nearly every home where land is sufficient there is need of from two to six cherry trees right away this coming spring; while as a commercial crop our markets are ready for the product of many thousands of trees. The new race of Jap in plums still continues promising; they are more hardy than peaches, a number of varieties fruiting quite freely in '96 in orchards where the most hardy peaches failed entirely. The earlier varieties ripen here early in July and a succession may be had till October. A few varieties are very poor in quality, others good, and some superior to any other type of plums known. For canning purposes they are unsurpassed, and I trust the time is not far distant when we shall have in our state canneries of high grade, that with the plums, cherries, peaches and other choicest fruits of Connecticut soil, a product may be had superior to any now on the market. It is entirely feasible and only requires backing by men or women of the right stamp to assure its success.

STEAMING JACK FROST.
The matter of protection against spring frosts is receiving serious attention; experience seems to indicate that steam is of far greater value than either heat or smoke. Fires at distances of not over fifty feet apart, lightly covered with wet hay or other material that may be kept wet all the time, and yet not put out the fire, will, in any but a very windy time, cover the field or orchard with a fog-like vapor that will change the freezing point many degrees.

STUDY ONE ANOTHER.
There are plenty of honest commission men and dealers in the fruit trade; get them out in the field and orchard, and get all hands in close touch with one another; it will do good. A love of the business, judicious advertising, clean packages and honest packing, are essential points in commercial fruit culture. New England buyers are the most refined and critical of any, and will always pay liberally for fruit that is beautiful and good. The family fruit garden may contain more choice varieties, which through lack of fine appearance or keeping qualities are not acceptable to the markets.

FRUIT AND MORALITY.
It should be the constant aim of the Society to encourage a love of fruit culture among the young. The refining influence of fruits and flowers must never be lost sight of if we expect to attain the highest civilization. A home that is always freely supplied with earth's choicest productions of fruit and flowers is apt to be the abiding place of pure thoughts and actions.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL WOMAN.
DEAR ED.—My husband is ambitious and does not want me to work, but on account of hard times we could not live well, dress and school our children. I read how people were making money doing plating, and, without telling my husband, I ordered outfit for plating tableware, jewelry, bicycle parts, etc., from Prof. M. Gray & Co., Columbus, Ohio. It came complete with all receipts, secrets, and they taught me to do the work splendid. Got all the work I could do. In two weeks I was making more money than my husband. Made \$74 before he knew I was working. The firm were very kind to me. We were so encouraged that my husband gave up his place, and now he goes through the country and villages, and these hard times people have old goods placed, instead of buying new, because it's cheaper and better. We are saving money. My husband is now proud of me, although he would have objected in the beginning if he had known. This was a lucky bit for us. Other readers can do as well by writing the firm.

MRS. FRANCIS M.—

Literary Notes.

The February number of THE DELINEATOR is called the Midwinter Number, and its artistic colored plates in lithograph, half-tone and oleograph effects embody the latest ideas in winter dress modes, fabrics and millinery. One of the most valuable articles which have ever appeared in this stirring magazine introduces a writer new to its pages, Nora Archibald Smith—a sister of Kate Douglas Wiggin—whose paper on the Study of Children should be read by every one who accepts responsibility for their proper development. Dr. Grace Peckham-Murray continues the Talks on Health and Beauty so auspiciously begun in the January number. The Mellen Idoltry, a short story of New England people, is the work of Sarah Cleghorn, a young writer of brilliant promise. In discussing Social Life in New York, Mary Cadwalader Jones is, of course, at her brightest and best. Carolyn Halstead explains the wonderful growth of State Federations of Women's Clubs. Lucia M. Robbins details a novel idea in Entertainments, and there is a paper of relative interest on Church Fairs and Fancy Bazaars. Maude C. Murray-Miller contributes a second paper on The Delinquent. Emma Haywood continues her series of papers on Ecclesiastical Embroidery, and also illustrates the use of Coronation Cord in Fancy Work. The departments of Floral Work, Book Reviews, Tea-Table Chat, Seasonable Cookery, Knitting, Tatting, Crocheting, etc., are of accustomed excellence. The Butterick Publishing Co. (Limited), at 7 to 17 West Thirtieth street, New York, \$1.00 for a Year's Subscription, or 15 cents per copy.

BOOKS FOR FARM AND GARDEN.
"TURKEYS, AND HOW TO GROW THEM," is a new book just published by Orange Judd & Co., Springfield, Mass. Several readers who inquire for a book upon this subject will find this work complete and not at all high-priced. It is well illustrated and contains articles by specialists. Varieties, feeding, care and diseases are fully treated.

GREEN'S NURSERY CO., of Rochester, N.Y., have just sent out their annual catalogue, profusely illustrated. The writer has tried their nursery stock and found it satisfactory.

KITSLAND BROS., of Ridgely, Ind., sell the Duplex wire fence machine by which a farmer can make his own fencing. Catalogue free.

W. W. R. WSON's new catalogue is ready for distribution. Simply a postal card application, mentioning the PLOUGHMAN, will secure the ninety-page list of everything for farm and garden. Among the large colored pictures is a full-page view of the market sections of Boston where the seed warehouse is located. Among the novelties described are Rawson's wax bean, Rawson's white spine cucumber, Rawson's flower market stocks, Arlington lawn seed.

"SWEET PEAS UP TO DATE," is a new book by W. Atlee Burpee & Co. of Philadelphia. It tells all about the flower and how to grow it. It is worth adding to any floral library, although free. The author is W. T. Hutchins of Indian Orchard, Mass.

R. & J. PARROT's catalogue for 1897 presents a neat and attractive appearance. The store on South Market street, Boston, has been enlarged and the stock increased. An attractive novelty offered by this firm is the Monarch rhubarb, which is simply enormous.

"MANUAL OF EVERYTHING FOR THE GARDEN," is the title of this year's catalogue of Peter Henderson & Co., New York. This well known firm has been established fifty years, and the present catalogue celebrates the anniversary as a jubilee edition replete with splendid colored engravings. The rose and pansy pictures are especially beautiful. This catalogue is, we believe, the largest and handsomest on the list.

A sensible and attractive catalogue is that issued by SCHLEGEL & FOTTLER, 26 So. Market St., Boston. Over a cent is carefully avoided and the descriptions are therefore reliable.

State College Class Day.

At the meeting of the senior class of the State Agricultural College at Amherst, Friday, the following officers were elected for class day at commencement: Class Orator, Herbert J. Armstrong of Sunderland; Campus Orator, John M. Barry of Boston; Pipe Orator, John A. Emrich of Amherst; Master of Ceremonies, George D. Leavens of Brooklyn, N. Y.; Presenter of Gifts, George A. Drew of Westford; Class Poet, Charles I. Grossman of Amherst; Campus Poet, James L. Bartlett of Salisbury; Ivy Poet, Harry F. Allen of Northboro; Master of Music, Chas. A. Norton of Lynn; Historical Review, John W. Allen of Northboro.

It will be noticed that the bull calf by Brown Bessie's Son, and out of Plumage, advertised by Hood Farm this week, partakes of the blood of both Brown Bessie and Merry Maiden, the great World's Fair winners. Brown Bessie was the winner of the ninety and thirty days' tests, and Merry Maiden was the champion sweepstakes cow against all breeds combined, Chicago, 1893. Brown Bessie's Son, the sire of this bull, is considered the most valuable bull living to day, and Plumage, the dam of the calf, is one of the best daughters of the great Diploma, being also a half-sister of Merry Maiden. This calf has never been offered for sale before, as Mr. Hood thought he might keep him for use in his herd. He has never seen a sick day, is strong and rugged. The breeder who secures him gets the very cream of breeding close up to the two great winners at the World's Fair, Brown Bessie and Merry Maiden. In individuality, the calf, his sire and his dam, cannot be excelled. We shall be much interested to record the luck of a breeder that they should be willing to pay a good price for this fellow, as he will evidently be worth lots of money to the one who gets him.

THE firm of D. M. FERRY & CO., of Detroit, Mich., is one of the best known seed establishments in the country. Their new catalogue contains a choice list of new and standard sorts, while prices are lower than ever.

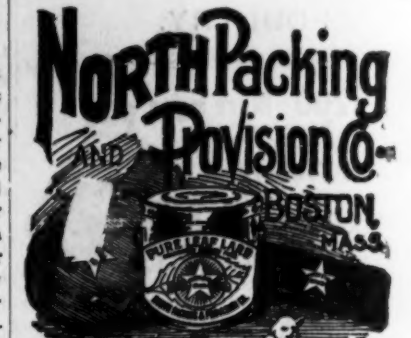
DID the farm insurance policy expire last month? Renew it and you will sleep better.

Much in Little

Is especially true of Hood's Pills, for no medicine ever contained so great curative power in so small space. They are a whole medicine.

Hood's Pills

The only Pills to take with Hood's Sarsaparila.



HIGHEST AWARD MEDAL AND DIPLOMAS
FOR PURE LARD, HAMS, BACON, DRY, SALTED AND PICKLED MEATS, BARREL FOWL, PURE LARD, SAUSAGES
FOR SOMETHING EXTRA CHOICE
TRY THEIR NORTH STAR BRAND
SURE TO PLEASE.

Styles correct, Prices right!
Only four words but what a world of meaning!
Macaulay Parker Company,
Clothing and Outfitters for Men, Youths and Boys.
400 Washington St., Boston.
166 Westminster Street, Providence.

STOP THE growth of HORNS. Book Free. Write JOHN MARCH CO. 64 Riv St., Chicago. Chemical Dehorner at drugists.

EXCURSIONS.

Jamaica TOURS.
19 Day Tours, leaving New York Feb. 19, March 5 and 19, spending one day in Hayti, with about one week in Jamaica. Price \$132. Our regular 25 and 35 day tours, leaving New York Feb. 27, and March 13. Prices \$175 to \$240.

A select party will leave New York for Jamaica Feb. 27, per (New) S. S. Altal and will arrive in time to participate in the festivities incident to the entertainment of the

ENGLISH FLEET.

Jamaica and Florida Line March 13. Venezuela, Feb. 19 and March 19. Return tickets via Florida if desired. Send for our illustrated book of tours, third edition.

Pierce's Excursion Co., 197 Washington St., Boston.

Mass. Horticultural Society.

SPRING EXHIBITION—Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, March 23, 24, 25 and 26, opening at 12 M. on Tuesday, and closing at 9 P.M. Friday.

RHODODENDRON SHOW.—Thursday and Friday, June 3 and 4, opening at 12 M. on Thursday, and closing at 9 P.M. Friday.

ROSE AND STRAWBERRY EXHIBITION.—Tuesday and Wednesday, June 22 and 23, opening at 12 M. on Tuesday and closing at 9 P.M. Wednesday.

ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF PLANTS AND FLOWERS.—Wednesday and Thursday, September 1 and 2, opening at 12 M. on Wednesday, and closing at 9 P.M. Thursday.

ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.—Thursday and Friday, September 30 and October 1, opening at 12 M. on Thursday, and closing at 9 P.M. Friday.

EXHIBITION OF CHRYSANTHEMUMS.—Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, November 2, 3, 4 and 5, opening at 2 P.M. on Tuesday and closing at 10 P.M. Friday.

A prize exhibition of vegetables will be held on Saturday, April 3; one of plants, flowers and vegetables on Saturday, May 1; one of tree peonies and herbaceous plants on Saturday, May 22; a special peony exhibition on Saturday, June 12, a special exhibition of aquatics on Saturday, August 21; a special exhibition of flowers, fruits and vegetables on Saturday, September 11; one of perennial asters on Saturday, September 18; an exhibition of early chrysanthemums on Saturday, October 16, and a special exhibition of winter fruits and vegetables on Saturday, November 20. All of which will be open from 12 M. to 3 P.M.

JAMAICA'S CHARMING SCENERY.

Few are aware of the unparalleled scenery and equable climate of Jamaica, the Queen of the West Indian Islands. Possessing every advantage that Bermuda and Nassau have, and a thousand delights of scenery and climate which they have not, Jamaica is bound to take first rank among the health and pleasure resorts of this continent; her lofty mountains and deep valleys dip all monotonously.

Recently hotel changes have been made whereby the largest hotel has passed under American control and is now a first-class house. Tourists can now visit Jamaica under conditions of the highest comfort. During the winter there will be a series of tours to this beautiful island. A special limited party under personal escort will leave New York, February 13 by the Atlas Line steamship Alleghany, for comprehensive tours of 19 to 25 days, one to several of these tours return to New York via Florida. An illustrated book of tours can be had free, and full particulars on application to Pierce's Excursion Company, No. 197 Washington street, Boston, or E. M. Jenkins & Co., No. 275 Broadway, New York.

Country Real Estate.

Henry W. Fuller of Dedham has bought the Hall property in East Milton. There are about twenty acres of land, with suitable buildings, and the price paid was about \$1000 an acre. The property will be developed, and will be known as Edgewood Park.

Washington B. Thomas of Boston has bought for a summer residence the Henry P

More Potash

in the fertilizers applied on the farm means larger and better yields of crops, permanent improvement of the soil and

More Money

in the farmer's pocket.

All about Potash—the results of its use by actual experiment on the best farms in the United States—set forth in a little book which we publish and which will be mailed free to any farmer in America who will write for it to

GERMAN KALI WORKS,
91 Nassau St., New York.

MARKETS.

BOSTON LIVE STOCK MARKET

Cattle Stronger—Sheep Firm—Hogs Higher—Calves in Active Demand—Milk Cows in Moderate Sale—Horses Steady.

Reported for Mass. Ploughman.
Week ending Feb. 10, 1897.

Amount of Stock at Market.

Cattle	3,100	Sheep	10,000	Hogs	1,000
Calves	1,500	Milk Cows	500	Horses	100
Swine	2,000	Poultry	50,000		

CATTLE AND SHEEP FROM SEVERAL STATES.

State	Cattle	Sheep	Hogs
Mass.	1,000	5,000	500
N. Hampshire	1,000	5,000	500
Vermont	1,000	5,000	500
Massachusetts	1,000	5,000	500

CATTLE AND SHEEP BY RAILROAD, ETC.

Station	Cattle	Sheep	Hogs
Pittsboro	1,000	5,000	500
Lowell	1,000	5,000	500
B. & A.	1,000	5,000	500

Values on Northern Cattle, etc.

Blue, yellow and red, all well. First quality, \$5.00 to \$5.50; second quality, \$4.50 to \$5.00; third quality, \$4.00 to \$4.50. Some of the poorest, \$3.50 to \$4.00.

Working Oxen—\$4.00 to \$5.00; heavy steers, \$3.50 to \$4.00.

Cows and Young Calves—Fair quality, \$2.00 to \$2.50; extra, \$2.50 to \$3.00.

Sheep—Per pound, live weight, 2¢ to 2½¢; extra, 2½¢ to 3¢.

Fat Hogs—Per pound, live weight, 3¢ to 3½¢; extra, 3½¢ to 4¢.

Calves—Per pound, live weight, 2¢ to 2½¢; extra, 2½¢ to 3¢.

Arrivals at the Different Yards.

Yard	Cattle	Sheep	Hogs
Waterbury	1,000	5,000	500
Worcester	1,000	5,000	500
Lowell	1,000	5,000	500

General Live Stock Notes.

Stock comes in quite freely; when we look at the totals of the week we cannot call it a very good one. A good surplus of cattle over the number for export, and the sheep in moderate supply and at steady prices. The hog market has obtained firmness, and a plenty of arrivals. Veals are higher; country lots as last quoted. Veals are beginning to come forward in good numbers, and dealers obtained much the same price as last week. The milk cow total would reach probably 250 head, of all ages, at \$1.50 to \$2.00 extra. Dealers claim a fair week for the sale of horses, but that prices do not improve. The few calves of cow lots are at 10¢.

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Stock comes in quite freely; when we look at the totals of the week we cannot call it a very good one. A good surplus of cattle over the number for export, and the sheep in moderate supply and at steady prices. The hog market has obtained firmness, and a plenty of arrivals. Veals are higher; country lots as last quoted. Veals are beginning to come forward in good numbers, and dealers obtained much the same price as last week. The milk cow total would reach probably 250 head, of all ages, at \$1.50 to \$2.00 extra. Dealers claim a fair week for the sale of horses, but that prices do not improve. The few calves of cow lots are at 10¢.

Cattle, Sheep.

State	Cattle	Sheep	Hogs
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N. Hampshire	1,000	5,000	500
Vermont	1,000	5,000	500

Arrivals at the Different Yards.

Yard	Cattle	Sheep	Hogs
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Worcester	1,000	5,000	500
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THE HOUSEHOLD.

SAINT VALENTINE.

I am Saint Valentine!
Not the old Roman saint,
Not the pagan saint,
Scourged to the red,
Losing his head
To a Claudian jail
In the Flaminian Way!
Not much, sir, I shone
In a different line,
Does this Valentine!
Out among the little birds,
Nesting soon or late,
You may see my skillful hand
Helping them to mate.
In the spring,
When they sing
Sole and lonely,
Then I call
And leave them all
Singing duets only.
Then I shake that little stupid
God, whose other name is Cupid,
And I make
To a proper sense of duty;
So he takes his little bow
And arrows, don't you know,
To go
Gunning after youth and beauty!
I am posted on each bird's nest,
And I fix up pretty packets
Of hearts and doves and clinging vines
And designate them valentines!
Just a plain and cheap one here,
Something fine and costly there,
But meaning nothing less,
Whoever be the recipient.
To the richest in the state
Or the poor without the gate;
For Love is Love,
Below or above,
And I am its Saint
From the ages quaint
To this very day.
When I say my say,
And I draw no line,
For I am the whole world's Valentine.
—Will J. Lounston.

IN MOTHER TIME'S ROSE-GARDEN

A VALENTINE STORY.

Once upon a time, long, long ago, Jack Frost peeped over the wall of Mother Time's rose-garden, and saw little Summer there, making roses. Then home he ran in haste to Mother Nature, and nothing would do but she must teach him to make flowers as Summer did.

Now, Mother Nature is a very busy old lady, with a large family of children to take care of, and she had no time to spend in teaching Jack Frost how to make flowers.

"Pie upon you for a naughty boy!" she said, when he kept on teasing her. "Making flowers isn't your business at all. See to it that you do your own work right, and that's all I ask of you."

But Jack Frost teased and teased until Mother Nature had half a mind to send him away to the dark closet at the North Pole for punishment. First, however, she thought she would go across the way and talk with Mother Time about it.

So she put on her best evening apron, embroidered with golden stars, and took her knitting-work for a nice long chat.

"Now, Autumn, my other little girl, is very fond of Jack Frost," said Mother Time, when she was told about Jack's tantrums. "They're both fond of painting, you know; and they often get out their colors, and paint beautiful landscapes together. I don't see how they do it, myself. And then, too, Winter and Jack Frost are great chums. But my little Summer is a shy child. She will not play with every one, and she has never liked Jack Frost much. I'll speak to Father Time about it, though. The children always mind him."

So naughty, spoiled Jack Frost had his way, after all. For one day, as he sat napping at his mother's window, a beautiful little humming-bird flew up to him, and laid on the sill a dainty note written on a rose-leaf. It was an invitation to Jack Frost to come to a *tele-a-tete* flower party with Miss Summer in Mother Time's rose-garden. Think of it! Wouldn't you like to go to a flower party with Summer in her mother's garden?—and rose-leaf invitations, too! But, oh, my stars! when the lessons began, what queer flowers Jack Frost did make! Little Summer was sorely puzzled. Why, oh, why would not Jack Frost's flowers look like her own, when she tried so hard to teach him to do just as she did? Why, oh, why did his flowers turn out all white, with silver sparkles, which needed the sunshine to brighten them up, but always faded rapidly away in its warmth? Little Summer did not understand it at all; but she was a sweet-tempered little lass, and never got out of patience with Jack.

She taught him to make lilies first. "For," she said, "they are white, you see, and you do not seem to understand how to weave in colors yet."

And in time Jack Frost learned to make charming lilies, though they all had that curious sparkle, and were so exceedingly thin that the sunshine always melted them as fast as he made them.

"It must be some trouble at the roots," thought dear little Summer. "We'll try ferns next. They're easy to grow. And then we may pass on to palm-trees. He seems to have a very dainty touch with foliage."

But one day Summer brought out her little pots of rose-coloring and all her fairy fixings for weaving the loveliest flower in the world. She set to work to teach Jack Frost how to make roses. But, oh, what an awkward butter-fingers he was that day! He daubed himself with the precious rose-coloring, and broke the fairy webs; but not a single rose-leaf could he spin.

At last, tired out, in a fit of peevish spite, he jumped up, kicked over all the little pots of rose-coloring, and, worst

of all, slapped little Summer hard in the face, and pinched her ears. Then he ran out of the garden gate, crying: "I hate your ugly old roses! So there!"

But when Jack Frost sat down at home, and thought how unkind and impolite he had been to little Summer, he was very much ashamed of himself. So, without waiting for Mother Nature's punishment, he crept away of his own accord, and hid in the dark closet at the North Pole.

And the great big world outside of Mother Time's rose-garden said: "The roses are very scarce this year. That snap of frosty weather we had blighted them sadly. But we know that it was because Naughty Jack Frost knocked over all little Summer's pots of rose-color, and broke her fairy rose-webs."

One day, a long time after all this happened, little Winter was out snow-balling in his mother's back yard, when a pale, sad little face peered through the fence. It was Jack Frost, who had come back from the North Pole. Winter was glad to see him, for he and Autumn had both missed their merry playmate. But Jack Frost only said: "Where's Summer? I want to see her."

"Ho, ho!" laughed Winter. "I don't believe she wants to see you, Master Jack. She's away on a visit. To-morrow is Saint Valentine's Day, and the birds have invited her to a party."

"Do you suppose I could find her?" faltered Jack Frost.

"No, I don't," Winter replied. "You'd better come in here, and play a game or two with me."

But Jack Frost would not stop. He made up his mind he would search and search till he found little Summer. He wanted to tell her how sorry he was for his naughty behavior. But he could not bear to ask anybody else where she was, so he set out to look for her himself.

All day long he wandered from place to place, but nowhere could he find Summer. At last night came, and poor Jack was tired out. He was creeping wearily along when he chanced to peep into a certain window; and then his heart gave a great thump. For in the room there was a big lamp, with a silk and lace petticoat on it; and sitting right by this lamp was a wee maiden with sunny hair. And she seemed to be weaving roses!

Jack Frost could not see her face, but he was sure it was Summer. So he stood and tried to beckon her to the window. But the little maid never once looked up from her work; and poor Jack did not dare to rap on the pane, for there were others in the room, and he was too ashamed to beg Summer's pardon before so many.

"Never mind," said Jack to himself. "I'll leave her a valentine here on the window. She'll get it the first thing in the morning, and know I've been here to say 'I'm sorry.'"

So Jack Frost put on his invisible cap, and fell to work. He wove and fastened on the window pane the daintiest valentine, all edged with lace and covered with silver sparkles. Tenderly he put into the valentine all the beautiful things that Summer had taught him to make, but which poor Jack could only make in his own peculiar fashion.

Like the wind flew Jack Frost's fingers, making a valentine—not for Summer at all, but for my little Elizabeth. For she it was who sat in that room by that big lamp, with the silk and lace petticoat on it. And she was not making rose-leaves, but knitting dolly's socks out of rose-colored yarn. Don't you think that was a queer mistake for Jack Frost to make?

But the next morning I took little Elizabeth to the window, and showed her the exquisite lilies done in frosted silver, the fairy ferns and the graceful palm-trees of Jack Frost's loveliest of valentines. Then I told her the true story of that valentine which I have just told you.

And little Elizabeth says she is very sorry for poor, naughty Jack Frost, and that when the bees and butterflies come back again she will tell them all about Summer's beautiful valentine which Jack Frost left on her window by mistake. Then who knows but the bees and butterflies will carry the story to Mother Time's rose-garden?—Christian Register.

A St. Valentine's day custom once practiced in Norwich, England, was not unlike our Christmas custom of the giving of gifts. Mr. Lawrence Hutton quotes from a correspondent this description: "Inside the house all is on the *qui vive*, and the moment the bell is heard, all the little folk (and the old one, too, sometimes) rush to the door, and seize the parcel, and scrutinize the direction most anxiously, to see whether it is for papa, or mamma, or for one of the youngsters. The parcels contain presents of all descriptions, from the most magnificent books or desks to the little nappy squeaking dolls; indeed, I have known a great library easy-chair to come in this way. . . . As I have stated, they are all sent anonymously, or at most with some attempts at poetry with them, but all have the universal 'G. M. V.' or 'Good Morrow Valentine' upon them. I have only to add that this year [1854] the festival has been kept more religiously than ever."

Myriads of our fellow creatures have perished because those around them did not know how to feed them. The time, indeed, is fast hand when systematic lectures on food will be part of medical education, when the value of feeding in disease is admitted to be as important as the administration of medicines.—Fothergill.

THE HOME CORNER.

FREE PATTERN.

By special arrangements with the BAZAR GLOVE-FITTING PATTERNS CO., we are able to supply our readers with the *Bazar Glove-Fitting Patterns* at very low cost. It is acknowledged by every one that these patterns are the simplest, most economical and most reliable patterns published. Full directions accompany each pattern, and our lady readers have been invariably pleased with them in the past. The coupon below must accompany each order, otherwise the pattern will cost the full price.

MASS. PLOUGHMAN COUPON.

Cut this out, fill in your name, address, number and size of pattern desired, and mail it to "THE HOME CORNER, MASS. PLOUGHMAN, BOSTON, MASS."

Name
Address
No. of Pattern
Size
Enclose ten cents to pay expenses.

Enclose ten cents to pay expenses.

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gestion and make her purchase early, before the choicest patterns have been selected, bearing in mind that as all our designs are very much in advance, one need not hesitate in beginning one's summer sewing at once. To make this a hook for a child of six years will require two and one-half yards of forty-four-inch wide material. The pattern, No. 6948, is cut in sizes for children of two, four, six and eight years, and retails for twenty-five cents. With coupon ten cents.



6943-Boys' Suit.

A natty and becoming suit for boys is here represented, made of blue diagonal serge. The pattern consists of short knee trousers, three button cut-away coat and vest. The coat is shaped by shoulder and under-arm seams, the front being faced and reversed at the top to form lapels that meet the collar in notches. Pockets are inserted in the front in regulation coat style. The comfortable sleeves, shaped by upper and under portions, are finished at cuff depth with rows of machine stitching and bone buttons that correspond with these employed in closing the coat and fastening the knee trousers. The vest is shaped by shoulder and under-arm seams and closes in centre front. The back may be drawn as closely as desired at the waist by straps that are buckled in the centre. Useful pockets are provided and the neck is cut low, showing a neat shirt front and smart tie. The short knee trousers are shaped with inside and outside leg seams and close at the sides, inside bands at the top being provided with button-holes to attach to buttons on the shirt waist. Jaunty and stylish suits can be made of velvet, corduroy, serge, tweed, cheviot or diagonal, care being taken in making that the garments are well pressed and neatly finished by machine stitching. To make this suit for a boy eight years of age will require one and seven-eighths yards of fifty-four inch wide material. The pattern, No. 6943, is cut in sizes for boys of six, eight, ten and twelve years and retails for twenty-five cents. With coupon, ten cents.

Skirts of both the gored and circular kinds are worn. Heavy, firmly woven materials only should be made up by a circular mode, the gored styles being better suited for open or very light-weight weaves.

Two crosswise whalebones at the waist between the second dart and the under-arm seam will do away with the wrinkles that so often mar the effect of basques worn by stout women.

The latest cut in skirts has comparatively no flare around the bottom; yet is fairly wide and fits very closely around the hips, with all the fullness at the back.

The time has now come for the busy housewife to be engaged in spring sewing, or perhaps she may be sewing rage for a new carpet, says the Ohio Farmer. For many of us the fatigue or strain caused by sewing is too great for us to endure, for continued work. We have inherited so many nervous habits of generations of ancestors that there are but few of us who now work at all in

the natural way or by using the muscles intended to do the work. In sewing we so frequently get tired in the back of the neck or the waist, and this is because we use the muscles of the neck or waist rather than the ones intended to do the work. If you will but stop and think when sewing, you will find those muscles are contracted as much as if they were the ones necessary for the work. Now, contraction is the working state of muscles, and what we want is to teach them when to contract.

Whenever the tired feeling comes, it is because of unnatural tension, which as soon as the woman becomes sensible of it, can be stopped entirely by taking two or three minutes now and then to let go of these wrongly sympathetic muscles and thus teach them to mind their own business, and thus sew with only the muscles that are needed. Lay down your work and let your muscles relax as much as possible, and by doing this frequently we can avoid the useless strain and teach our muscles to behave properly.

Another simple cause of much fatigue in sewing is the cramped, strained position of the lungs; this can be prevented without stopping in the work by taking long, quiet, easy breaths. There must be no exertion whatever in the chest muscles. The lungs must seem to expand from the pressure of the air alone, as independently as a rubber ball expands, and this cannot be done when our shoulders are cramped or stooped as they so frequently are. Most of us sew or work with so much haste that we never stop to consider what is the correct way to work or the proper muscles to use, but we go on from day to day making so many of our muscles perform the work intended for others that much unnecessary fatigue must be endured.

How many housekeepers are aware that furnace and steam heat are to a large degree responsible for the cracking and warping of the lighter kinds of furniture, especially bamboo, and that to counteract the ill-effects of the same they should be rubbed regularly with equal parts of linseed oil and turpentine, applied with a flannel and then rubbed in with a soft cloth? Bamboo is also improved by an occasional wash in cold water, if thoroughly dried afterward, says an exchange.

Mahogany, rosewood or black walnut should be rubbed with linseed oil and crude petroleum, a very little being put on at a time, and rubbed in thoroughly until the surface looks like a mirror. If the rubbing is done once every two weeks it is not at all difficult to get a good shine in a short time, but the first application may require longer. Any of the natural woods that are not varnished can be polished in the same way, but varnished surfaces should be washed with water in which tea leaves have been steeped for half an hour. This will make them much brighter than if washed with soap and water, and unlike the latter will not remove the gloss.

When the varnished furniture becomes scratched the spots should be gone over with a camel's hair brush and shellac varnish till they disappear. Nothing should be allowed to touch the places until the application is thoroughly dry. If a small splinter of wood is knocked off a bureau or chair, glue it on again with a little liquid glue, and if the edges show white, color them with paint to match the rest of the wood. When this is dry, varnish and the break will hardly be perceptible. If the broken piece is large, and where it is likely to be hit and knocked off again, in addition to the glue secure it in position with small brads, or, for a makeshift, pins driven in as far as possible and the remainder filed off flat to the surface. The edge of the pin must be touched with the paint at the same time as the edges.

When large breaks occur, such as the leg of a chair or the arm of a sofa, do not trust to glue alone, but strengthen the weak part with an extra piece of wood, nailed on the side that does not show, in such a manner that the nails do not come quite through to the right side.

Leather trimmings which have such a persistent way of separating themselves from wood may be securely fastened by means of a paste made of melted India rubber, mixed with shellac varnish. The leather itself can be made to look almost like new by being washed with warm milk. This is especially good for leather seats or lounge coverings.

The best thing to use in cleaning delicate satin furniture is fresh bread crumbs. Rub the soft part of the bread

between the hands until thoroughly crumbled, then rub over the satin with swift smooth strokes, changing the crumbs as soon as they grow discolored. When the soil is removed dust off the remaining crumbs with a soft cloth or whisk. Other furniture covering can be cleaned with benzine or naphtha. About once a month the upholstered furniture should be well beaten and dusted.

When the stuffing of chairs and sofas begins to bulge on the under side turn the article upside down, take out the tacks which hold the foundation canvas or burlap and, after pushing the stuffing back into place, tack interlacing strips of webbing across the bottom, and replace the burlap. If the stuffing gets lumpy in the backs of these articles, untack the burlap from the backs and distribute the filling, adding to it or taking from it as comfort demands. Then retack.

Comfortable shoes and comfortable tempers go together, while cramped toes make the most angelic person fretful, says the N. Y. Observer. Moisture and dust cause corns; therefore it is necessary to keep the feet as dry and clean as possible; woolen hose for this reason should be changed twice as often as those of cotton, lisle or silk, for they hold perspiration, and cause clammy, cold feet, which in winter are to be avoided if one wishes to feel perfectly well.

In summer special care should be given to the feet by those who are obliged to be upon them much. Towards the feet become more or less swollen; this will be helped by a warm foot bath of water and witch hazel, and fresh hose. When soft corns begin to form between the toes use absorbent cotton, changing it night and morning; if the feet perspire very freely, sprinkle a little powdered chalk upon the cotton. If this is kept up, the formation will disappear in a week or ten days, for the moisture is what the corn feeds upon.

A dusting of toilet powder in refreshing upon an intensely hot day; sprinkle it upon the foot before the stockings are drawn on. Avoid short shoes; they

wear out quickly, cause ingrowing nails and draw attention to bunions, or other deformities. A shoe half an inch longer than the foot will fit much better and be less conspicuous. Never select and fit shoes when you are pressed for time; it is also wise to select them by noon if possible, for the feet are then of normal size; towards night they are larger, the stockings are moist and the result is not satisfactory. Always bear the weight of your body upon the shoes you are fitting, walk a few steps and work your toe joints to be sure the size will not cramp you; it is easier to spend an extra ten minutes in getting a perfect fit than have to return a hastily selected shoe and be refitted at another time.

Those who can afford to buy two pairs of shoes at a time will gain money in the end. Wear one pair three or four days, brush the dust from them and set them away to rest, then wear the other pair, alternating them in this fashion; it has been tested that they wear nearly twice as long as where one pair has been purchased at a time. Vasoline is excellent for shoes; it preserves the leather and keeps the dressing from wearing off. Shoes that have been thoroughly wet may be made to look almost as good as good new by wiping as dry as possible, inside and out, drying them gradually by the fire and rubbing vasoline upon them several times during the drying process.

Apple Salad.—Place in a saucepan on the range one tablespoonful of butter and one and one-half tablespoonfuls of flour (well mixed), and when hot pour over it, stirring constantly, one cup of sweet cream. Let boil for five minutes, stirring all the time. Remove from the fire and stir in one-half cup sour cream, the juice of half a lemon, a very little salt, and sugar to taste. Allow to become perfectly cold. Pare and slice, after coring and cutting into quarters, some mellow pippin apples. Pour the mixture over them and set on ice one hour before serving. This will please those who find they cannot eat oil.—American Kitchen.

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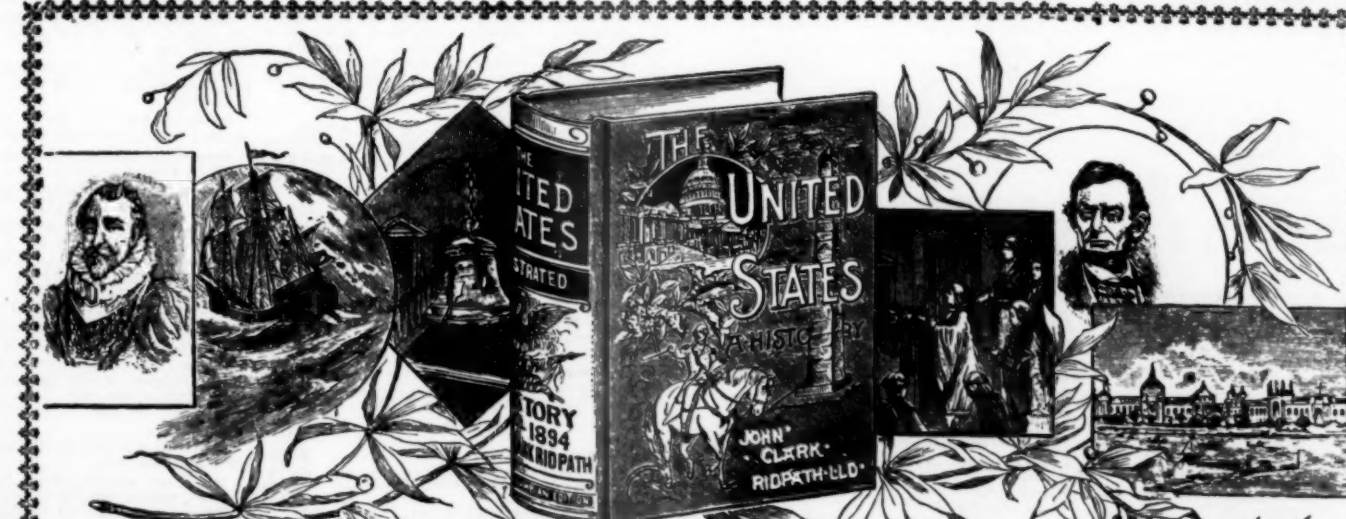
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